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A Special Report by Star Metro Media

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Homebuyers turn their attention to 'new north west'

Calgary's beautiful North West is about to blossom, and homebuyers are taking notice.

"Genstar's Carrington is the jewel of Calgary's new north west," says Kelly Schmalz, development manager with Genstar, a legacy land development company that is now creating a master-planned community called Carrington in the heart of the region.

"This new north west community is Genstar's experience in action," Schmalz says. "It's great for homebuyers who are looking for a spacious home in a well-planned, peaceful, community-oriented neighbourhood."

Located conveniently at Centre Street and Stoney Trail NW, the community offers semi-estate, single-family and duplexes built by well-known and experienced Calgary home developers Arcuri Homes, Excel Homes, Homes by Avi, and Jayman BUILT.

There are homes for every lifestyle and budget, from semi-estate homes that start from the $700,000s, move-up homes with front attached garages from the $450,000s, and duplexes from the $320,000s.

No matter the model you choose, its architecture will inspire you in Urban Carriage House, Prairie Modern and Urban Modern styles.

Building off of the success of the Centre Street Corridor, Carrington is all about location. A future LRT is slated at Centre Street between Stoney Trail and 144th Avenue.

The new station will be located in the community's Major Activity Centre. Soon to be buzzing with activity, this hub will give Carrington residents access to everything they need, including shops, restaurants and services, all a short distance from home.

The amenity-rich Centre Street corridor offers even more for residents, including shopping, recreation and schools.

And within the safety and proximity of the neighbourhood, residents can walk the path along the re-naturalized wetland — enjoying the beauty of nature just moments from their front door.

For more information on Genstar's Carrington, visit the showhomes, open Monday to Thursday, 2-8 p.m., and weekends and holidays, noon-5 p.m. or visit carringtonliving.ca

CONTRIBUTED

CARRINGTON

Welcome to the new North West

JOIN US FOR OUR
GRAND OPENING
FEBRUARY 11
FOOD, GAMES, KIDS' ACTIVITIES
NOON - 4PM

GENSTAR
BRINGING LAND TO LIFE

Rachel Hession and Dean Clark of Avalon Master Builders walk buyers through design decisions, introduce them to their home's features and provide support for the first year. CONTRIBUTED

Making your new house your own

BUILDER SERVICES

Experts help buyers turn a house into a happy home

Miles Durrie

Once you've worked with a sales person and decided to buy your new home, there are plenty of details to work out before you move in. That's where Dean Clark and Rachel Hession come in.

"I'm their first contact once they've made the decision to buy and the conditions of sale have been removed," says Clark, the design and selections manager for Avalon Master Builder.

As his title suggests, Clark helps turn houses and multi-family units into personalized homes, guiding buyers through the process of choosing design options, paint colours, fixtures and all the other selections that need to be made.

"It's ironing out all the fine details in their homes," he says. "At different construction milestones I'll bring them through and explain how their home is built. It can be a lot of fun."

Clark will also check in on the construction process regularly himself. After he has worked with buyers to put together their ideal living space and set their possession date, it's Hession's turn.

Her role as service and warranty team lead for Avalon means it's her job to introduce customers to their new home and all its features.

"I'll give them a call and meet with them for their walkthrough," Hession says. "We'll go through processes, what to do in an emergency, all the controls: 'Here's where everything is and here's how it all works.'"

She'll also confirm that everything is the way the buyers wanted it, and identify any areas that might need a touchup.

After the new homeowners move in, Hession continues to support them, answering questions, solving problems and arranging for any work that's needed during the one-year warranty period.

"It's rewarding, having that sense that I'm the person a lot of people count on for support for the first year," she says. "It's humbling to be able to help."

Clark, a Saskatoon native who started his career in the motorsports industry, has been with Avalon for seven years. He says first-time homebuyers in particular are often worried they might make the wrong decisions.

"You get to work with them and put their anxiety at ease, and improve their outlook," he says. "Part of it is knowing the questions to ask."

Hession was born and spent her early childhood near Cardiff, Wales, coming to Calgary as a pre-teen. She recently marked her fifth year with Avalon after starting her career working for a building materials supplier.

Recently engaged, she's currently pursuing a business diploma at SAIT.

Hession and Clark agree that meeting people and helping them through their first year of home ownership and beyond is a reward in itself.

"It's good for the buyers to know there are people like us to help them with every aspect of the home," Hession says. "It's kind of neat that we get to do that."

> **"It's good for the buyers to know there are people like us to help them with every aspect of the home. It's kind of neat that we get to do that.**
>
> Rachel Hession, service and warranty team lead for Avalon Master Builder

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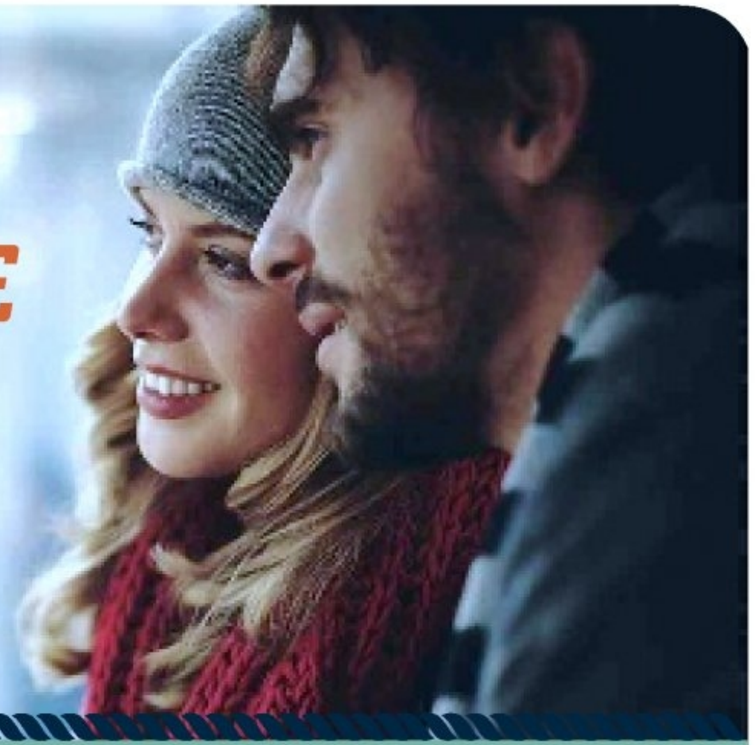

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CHESTERMERE

Community continues to attract new homebuyers

Kathy McCormick

Chestermere is a popular spot, not just for Calgarians, but for people looking for lakeside living.

It's less than 25 kilometres from Calgary on the city's eastern end, closer to the city centre than many of Calgary's newest communities within its own boundaries.

Chestermere Lake fills 2.65 square kilometres, providing a wealth of water-related activities for young and old, summer and winter. Any time of day you'll see people fishing, boating, sailing, skating, water skiing, wakeboarding, ice fishing, beaching, and more. The fresh-water lake is man made — constructed in the early last century as a dam and canal system for irrigation, but today, it's all about leisure and pleasure.

No surprise that it continues to attract new homebuyers — and the residential construction industry has been busy creating homes and communities to satisfy all types, sizes, styles, and price-points of homes.

Truman Homes has been active in the area, not only building homes but communities as well. Rainbow Falls is its Chestermere neighbourhood that takes the water theming to another level with water features and parks throughout the community — and homes in both single-family and multi-family choices.

Reflections Townhomes are its latest offering — a complex of 76 townhome units in 16 buildings — and more than half are sold already despite only being on the market for about six months. The majority of homes all have the same footprint — a 1,460-square-foot three-storey plan with a 47-square-foot deck on the main level and a two-car garage on the lower level, but several variations of the floorplan are available.

The show home is a three-bedroom model with two and a half bathrooms. From the entry, the home office is on the left, the staircase ahead and a hall leading to the garage.

Upstairs, the whole main level is open from end to end with lots of space to gather. The half bath is at the top of the stairs, then the dining nook at one end separated from the living area by a large, galley-style kitchen.

The nook has a small pantry cupboard adding to the functionality of the space and a large window to keep the area bright and appealing. The kitchen has an extra-long island to give homeowners even more space to sit and eat on the fly, as well as extra counter space for cooking. The cupboards have a flat profile and are grey to the ceiling to capitalize on storage space with Caesarstone countertops anchoring the space and subway-style white tiles as a backsplash. Appliances are all stainless steel.

The living area is generous with decorative built-in shelving along one wall and beneath the ample windows by the stairs leading to the upper level.

Upstairs, the master has a high window over the bed to capture light and maintain privacy, and an ensuite is attached, while the other two bedrooms are at the other end of the home, a full bathroom and laundry room with washer and dryer between.

The final phase of this development will back onto the canal in the area.

IN SHORT

Builder: Truman Homes
Development: Reflections Townhouses
Area: Rainbow Falls, Chestermere
Prices: $319,000 with GST
Directions: Take 16 Avenue S.E. (Hwy. 1A) east to Chestermere, to Rainbow Rd., turn right, then left at Rainbow Falls Gate.
Hours: Open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

The Chestermere show home is a three-bedroom model with two and a half bathrooms. CONTRIBUTED

The kitchen has an extra-long island to give homeowners even more space to sit and eat on the fly. CONTRIBUTED

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Finding a home that feels just right

BUYER PROFILE

Couple chooses centrally located community of Carrington

Miles Durrie

For Eddie Li and Marisa Lee, choosing a new home in the brand-new north Calgary community of Carrington simply felt right.

The married couple had been living farther northwest in Arbour Lake since 1998, and were looking for a more central location.

"When we found something we liked, we made the decision," Marisa says. What they liked — a lot — was the Cardiff model by Excel Homes. The 3,025-sq.-ft. front-garage home is a two-storey with a secret: a bright, spacious third floor. Excel calls it the "loft level," and it contains a large den, a full bathroom and a master-sized bedroom, which Eddie will use as his office.

The couple both work in real estate sales, Eddie as a realtor and Marisa as his assistant, so they know their way around homes and communities.

"We think in Carrington there's good potential for the future, with great accessibility and proximity to the facilities that will be built in the area," Eddie says.

Developed by Genstar, Carrington occupies the southwest portion of the Keystone Hills area that's currently under development. Bordered by Stoney Trail to the south, it's adjacent to Centre Street, which is the route for the Green Line rapid transit corridor that will whisk people to and from the downtown core.

Directly north and east of Carrington is Livingston, developed by Brookfield. The two communities will bring new life to the north central edge of Calgary, and the couple is excited about being part of it.

"We thing Carrington is a very good location," Marisa says. As for Eddie, he has no hesitation in recommending the community even though it's in its early stages of building. "I've actually sold a couple of houses in Carrington to my clients," he says.

The couple immigrated from Hong Kong in 1988, living in Toronto for a couple of years until Eddie, who was then in property management, was transferred to Calgary. They settled in the southeast community of Sundance before moving to Arbour Lake in 1998 — the same year Eddie went into real estate sales.

It's a career that requires people skills and a customer-service focus, qualities they recognized in Excel's Carrington area sales manager Tarek Safadi and his team.

"He has been really helpful," Eddie says.

Adds Marisa: "When you have good service, you feel so happy. We know good service when we see it, and we really appreciate all their help."

They'll take possession of their new home in September, and plan to rent out their current home after they move.

"We're excited about our new home," Marisa says. "And we'll have an excuse to buy new furniture."

"We think in Carrington there's good potential for the future, with great accessibility and proximity to the facilities that will be built in the area."
-Eddie Li

Eddie Li and Marisa Lee were looking for a more central location than their home northwest in Arbour Lake. CONTRIBUTED

Picture perfect setting in Calgary's northwest.

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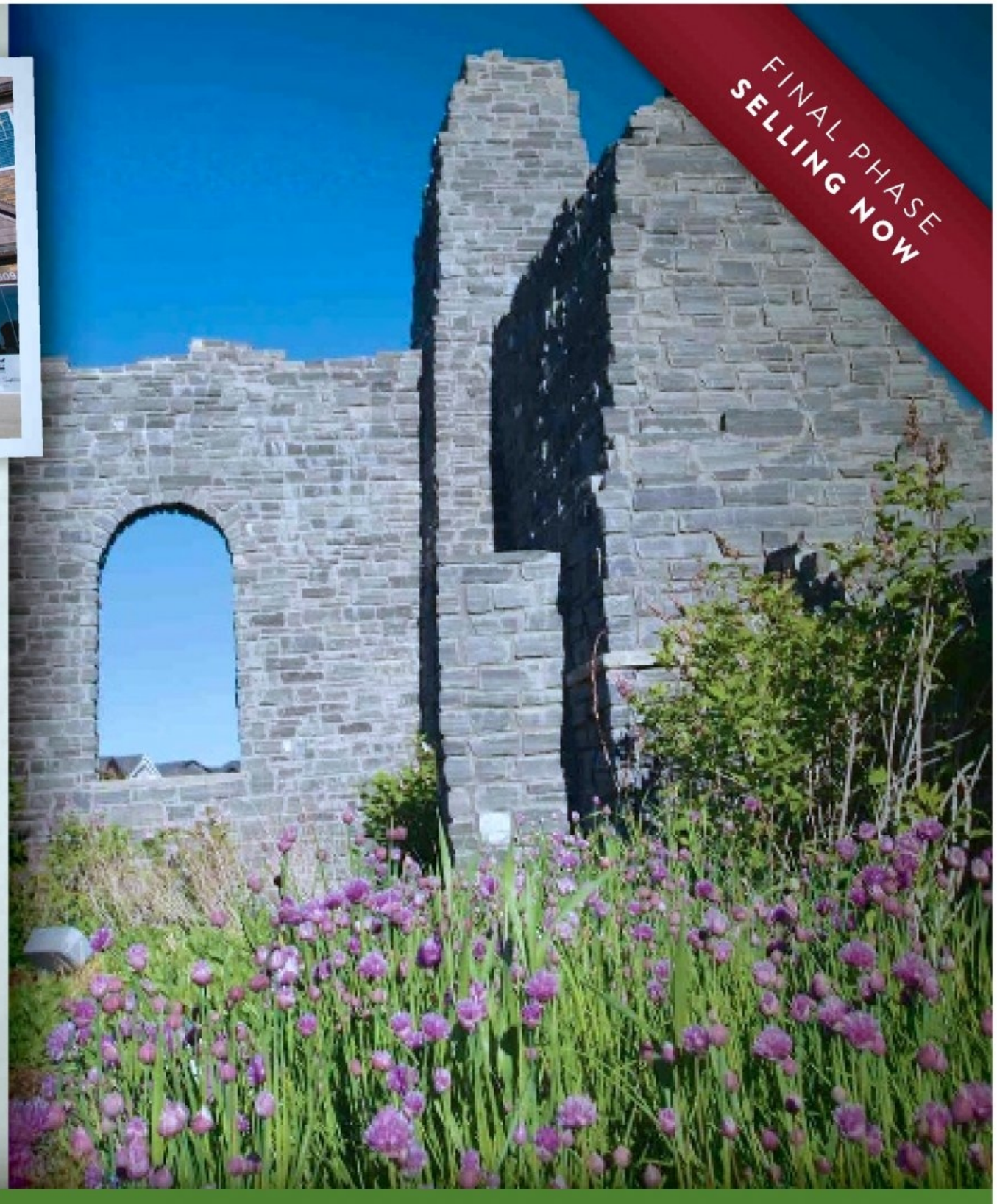

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Practical living with the

SHANE HOMES

Tofino III show home one of the most popular models

Kathy McCormick

The elegant Tofino III show home in West Grove Point is one of Shane Homes' most popular models — and it's easy to see why. It's efficient, yet sophisticated with just the right blend of practical living space with a 'wow' built in.

Right from the front door, the extended foyer is separate, yet with the two-sided spindles on the staircase ahead, you see right through to the great room beyond, and the area is large enough for a long bench.

To the right, a short hall leads to the half bath, then the over-size garage entry/mud room with built-in lockers, benches and shelving. In turn, this area opens to a huge walk-through pantry to the kitchen beyond — and there's even enough room for a full-size stand-up freezer here. Unloading groceries will be a snap.

Both the master bedroom and the ensuite have almost wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling windows so they're bright and inviting.

Opposite the staircases both up and down is a home office, truly the centre of the home with double pocket doors and a frosted glass window high above the built-in wall-to-wall desk and cupboards. The window opens on the other side to the pantry.

The great room and kitchen/nook take up the rest of the space - the full back half of the 2,882-square-foot home — a lot of living space that's open and bright with large windows to let in light from all angles. The great room has a feature wall with grey board panels surrounding the gas fireplace that, itself, is surrounded by glossy white tiles.

The kitchen is a gourmet delight with the same grey cabinets, with smaller glass cupboards right up to the ceiling for more than enough storage for even the most adventurous cook. The same cupboards have been extended right to the generous nook and these have wine storage (including a wine fridge) and more glass doors to give them an upscale look.

The nook opens to the outside deck.

The huge island is square with a flush eating bar along the outside edge and lovely veined white marble countertops that match the rest of the kitchen.

Built-in stainless steel appliances include a gas stove-

The show home in West Grove Point from Shane Homes. CONTRIBUTED

The upstairs bonus room. CONTRIBUTED

The kitchen, with more than often storage for the adventurous cook. CONTRIBUTED

'wow factor' built right in

top and an oversized side-by-side fridge with freezer drawer below.

Upstairs, the open bonus room is at the top of the steps, a generous size at 13 feet, five inches by 14 feet, six inches.

One wall has a built-in TV niche for super-sized entertainment.

From here, the master suite is on the left, the extra bedrooms are to the right maximizing privacy.

The master is huge with a very large ensuite with double vanities opposite each other, one with a make-up desk, and a stand-alone soaker tub between. The shower on the other side has a seat and two glass walls.

Notice the attention to detail throughout the home: in the shower, the decorative tiles down the middle of one wall carry up over the ceiling and down on the floor for extra interest. These are the same tiles as on the backsplash.

Both the master bedroom and the ensuite have almost wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling windows so they're bright and inviting.

The walk-in closet leads to the laundry room on the other side which has cupboards, a closet and sink.

At the other end, the two extra bedrooms have a small built-in computer desk to share in the hallway.

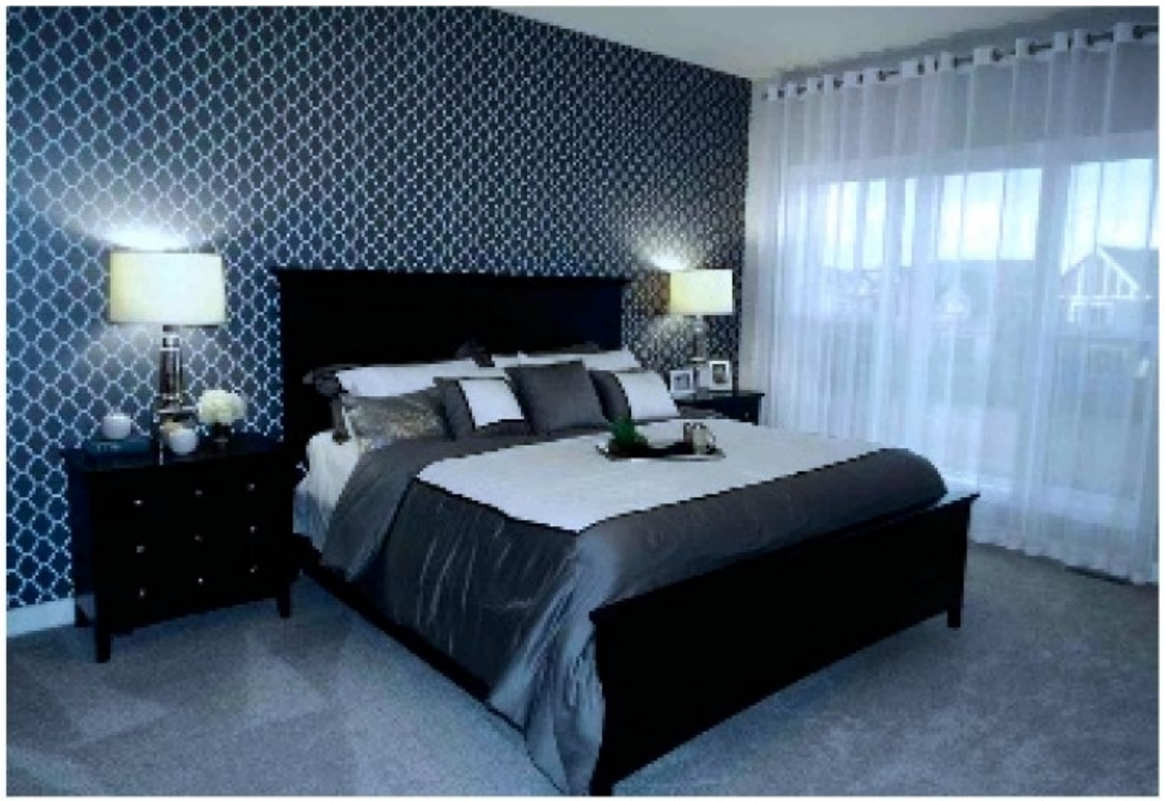
Both have walk-in closets as well, with one also featuring a long storage bench under the windows.

Outside, the dark brown stucco and darker chocolate trim are enhanced by rock detailing and the French Country architecture, giving it a rich, warm curb appeal.

IN SHORT

Builder: Shane Homes
Developer: Truman Development Corp.
Area: West Grove Point
Model: The Tofino III, a 2,882-sq.-ft. two-storey
Price: $1,050,000 including GST and with some upgrades as shown
Directions: Take Bow Trail SW to Old Banff Coach Road, turn right and follow to 73 Street, turn left and follow signs
Hours: Open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

The large ensuite with double vanities. CONTRIBUTED



The master bedroom with floor-to-ceiling windows. CONTRIBUTED

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Love bites

The meals that made you fall head over heels
metroLIFE

343

Albertans died of opioid overdose last year.

metroNEWS

Boardroom gets upgraded

CITY HALL

Renovations to council meeting space tally $2.65M

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

With no ribbon ceremony and no fuss, the City of Calgary opened a new $2.65-million meeting space for city councillors and other staffers to use during in-camera sessions; along with a banquet hall fit for dignitary visits.

It's in the old Civic Cafeteria space, which closed in 2012. According to the news of the day, food sales were down, and a significant capital investment was needed to revamp the space; years later that investment is here.

This is all part of the city's $34 million renovations scheduled for old city hall, according to the city.

That includes a brand new boardroom, reception lobby, catering staging area and washrooms — and the cost to demolish the aging cafeteria equipment.

Coun. Sean Chu said the money was approved more than a year ago. He described it as a "necessary evil."

"Every time we do something, it always costs a lot of money, it's something I've been trying to fix," said Chu.

Metro's requests for a tour and interview were not fulfilled by deadline, but questions about the renovation's particulars were answered via email.

"Through value engineering we took a number of steps to ensure that the space met the end users' needs while being fiscally responsible," said Tamara Woolgar in a written statement. She details features like LED, low voltage controllable lighting throughout the space, and "carefully selected" finishes that control the acoustics of the room.

The city could not provide a breakdown of costs on specific finishes.

Woolgar said the council boardroom is 1,384 square feet and can hold 32 people around the table, there's room around the perimeter for an additional 12 to 14 seated.

metro WARNING
Contains graphic content

Forensics expert details DNA evidence in Garland trial, metroNEWS

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metro NEWS

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Barack Obama goes kitesurfing with billionaire Richard Branson. VIDEO ON THE METRO APP

DNA from three victims found at Garland farm, says expert

TRIAL

Forensic evidence links missing family to suspect

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Left: Alvin Liknes's DNA was located on the tongue of the right shoe. These were the shoes police seized from Douglas Garland at the time of his arrest.
Right: DNA expert Vivian Mohrbutter used this hockey helmet to get a DNA profile for five-year-old Nathan O'Brien. CONTRIBUTED

DNA from all three victims — Alvin and Kathy Liknes, and their five-year-old grandson Nathan O'Brien — was found at the Garland farm, court heard Tuesday.

Douglas Garland, 57, is charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the apparent June 2014 slayings of the Likneses and O'Brien. Their bodies were never recovered.

Vivian Mohrbutter, a forensic analyst for the RCMP's National Forensic Lab, was qualified as an expert in court Tuesday to give opinion evidence in regards to DNA.

Mohrbutter began working on the case in the summer of 2014, and told the court how she and her colleagues worked into the nights and weekends running tests on the evidence seized in this investigation as it was given an "urgent status."

She told the court she was "confident" in the results from her testing.

The forensic analyst told the court how she was supplied with "known" DNA samples for the three victims — a toothbrush for Kathryn, a razor for Alvin and a hockey helmet for Nathan — that allowed her to create DNA profiles for comparison purposes.

DNA swabs taken from within the Liknes home yielded multiple results for all three victims, including blood swabs taken from walls, stairs and mattresses.

A few such examples included blood swabs taken off a pair of 45-pound dumbbells in the garage that tested positive for DNA from both Alvin and Kathy.

On a hacksaw, Mohrbutter found matches for DNA profiles of both Nathan and Alvin, while DNA from both Alvin and Kathy was found on a light switch in an outbuilding and DNA from all three victims on a pair of rubber boots.

There was a "1 in 130 billion chance" that the DNA sample for Nathan could belong to anyone else.

Court also heard of how DNA from Alvin was found on the tongue of the right shoe seized from Douglas Garland at his arrest.

Meat hooks found in an outbuilding on the Garland farm were tested for DNA and came back as a match for Kathy, Mohrbutter explained.

A fragment of "biological material" found near the Garland burn barrel, as well as blood in the bed of Garland's truck, were also DNA matches for Kathy.

Garland's DNA was also found on a pair of green rubber gloves, and on two pairs of handcuffs, a knife and a baton found in a black duffle bag in a Garland farm outbuilding.

The forensic analyst also told court of some products used in labs to clean DNA off equipment. She said she was familiar with one such commercial product called RNase Away — a bottle of this product was also found at the Garland farm.

Mohrbutter confirmed that none of Garland's DNA was found at the Likneses' home.

City looks at Taxi Lottery oddity

TRANSPORTATION

Name appears twice, causing suspicion among drivers

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Taxi drivers believe something has gone amiss with the city's latest taxi plate lottery.

Names of the plate winners were posted, and as taxi driver hopefuls looked on to see if they were the lucky winners, something wasn't quite right. It appeared a driver had won the lottery twice.

The city is now looking into what may have caused a driver to appear on the winner list, and contingency list making them a contender for one of the city's latest plate releases.

In late January, the city held a taxi plate lottery and chose 222 applicants to be newly-minted plate holders. According to the livery department, there were more than 2,200 participants.

The 2017 Taxi License Selection list document is eight pages long with 242 names on it. Winner number 42 and 227 were under the same name.

The city's list reflects two draws, their 222 primary winners, and a contingency list that would cover any users who are not deemed "eligible" to hold a plate.

Mandeep Leghe paid nearly $200 to enter, and he's concerned with the process.

Drivers were told that applicants could only enter the lottery once, according to Leghe. They were also told that current plate holders won't be allowed to apply to the lottery.

"Who knows, if this guy has two slips — someone could have five slips," Leghe said. "A lot of my friends were in this lottery... and it's a totally unfair process."

He and friends are calling for a third-party process to look into how the city conducted their lottery.

"The city just earns money, and they don't care," Leghe said. "How can a person be on their list twice?"

Calgary taxi drivers sit in on a Livery and Transportation Advisory Committee Hearing. Drivers have been raising concerns after one driver won the Taxi Lottery twice. METRO FILE

When asked about the document, and plate holders applying to the lottery, the city offered Metro a written response.

"Livery Transport is aware of this possible discrepancy and is conducting an audit investigation into the Taxi Plate License lottery process," wrote spokeswoman Georgina Parton. "Once complete, we will address any findings accordingly."

The plates won't be released until all of the winners are vetted and found eligible.

Calgary Parking Authority general manager **Mike Derbyshire.** A parking ban was issued in the city over the weekend. METRO FILE

Snow route parking war

ROADS

Hundred of tickets issued following ban

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The first snow route parking ban in years has netted the Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) nearly 1,500 tickets as of 4:40 p.m. Tuesday.

So far, the CPA is pleased with the city's response to the parking ban, but is asking citizens to continue to observe it until the end is called.

Over the weekend, with notice, the city told Calgarians through media, online and on their own social media that in order for snow crews to clear the weekend dump of more than 20 centimetres 20 to 30 per cent faster, a parking ban would be necessary.

But for some, that notice wasn't ideal. Tyler Gregory and his three roommates were ticketed for failing to find an alternate parking pad during the snow route ban.

"We do not have a garage so we park on the street," Gregory said. "When I saw the ticket I was extremely confused as I had not been aware of a parking ban in front of my own house. I had called the city to ask what was going on."

The streets weren't plowed yet, but Gregory was among the 1,428 Calgarians receiving a ticket for disobeying the ban.

Others took to social media, proclaiming the city hadn't done enough to get parking ban offenders off the road so that crews could clear.

"At any point during that 72 hours the road could be cleared," said Mike Derbyshire, general manager of the Calgary Parking Authority. "We don't know specifically when and where a plow is going to be.... Whether or not a plow is coming in five minutes or five hours later is really immaterial."

The ban will continue for as long as the City of Calgary sees fit, to a limit of 72 hours.

According to CPA, 11 vehicles were towed and 12 officers were on hand providing "enforcement services."

Gregory said he believes if the city can staff enforcement officers to ticket, they should also be able to let citizens know that they're parked incorrectly. Ideally, he was hoping for a posted notice like the city does for street sweeping, or tree removal.

EAST END

CMLC to put $150M into Victoria Park

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

With East Village now coming together, the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation is pivoting slightly to begin work on plans for Victoria Park.

The area that encompasses Stampede Park will get an investment of $150 million with the end goal of turning the east end into a cultural and entertainment district.

In February 2016, CMLC signed an agreement with Calgary Stampede to collaborate on a master plan for development.

Susan Veres, senior VP of strategy and business development at CMLC, said as with East Village, CMLC will develop the vision and invest in the core infrastructure. It will be up to development partners to help realize the vision.

They'll begin meeting with developers this summer.

CMLC is also looking to citizens to provide feedback on what they'd like to see added to the area.

"People travel, they see other things they like," said Veres. "That's what we want to hear. How can Victoria Park grow? What ideas do you have or ideals that we need to maintain?"

Mark Johnson, president of Denver-based landscape architecture firm Civitas, said the area's location next to the Elbow River and the Stampede Grounds makes it a wonderful asset.

His job is to help revitalize the area in a way that pays tribute to the history.

"If you considered the generations of people who have loved and experienced the Stampede, my question is, how do we design this public space to somehow resonate with what that means?" he said.

Veres said plans include an extension of 17 Ave. SE into Stampede Park, completing another stage of RiverWalk, and extensions to the Cycle Track network.

EDUCATION

Closure proposed for Juno Beach Academy

Calgary's Canadian history and military studies school will likely give its final salute at the end of this school year, after the CBE board of trustees recommended its closure.

Calgary board of education's Juno Beach Academy opened in 2003 and at its peak was home to 195 students, but numbers have dwindled quickly, and there are now only 15 students attending the school in Grades 10-12.

Sydney Smith, director for CBE area five, said they've had many engagements in an effort to bolster numbers — but to no avail.

LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

Pincott won't run in election

COUNCIL

'I want to be able to leave when I love the job': Councillor

Darren Krause
Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Brian Pincott METRO FILE

2016 WORK

- Raised concerns about the wellbeing of public, and police after 10 police-involved shootings took the lives of five people last year
- Brought forward a notice of motion to make all single-stall public bathrooms gender neutral

The three-term councillor for Calgary's Ward 11 won't be running in the upcoming municipal election, according to a letter sent out Tuesday morning.

Brian Pincott said his passion to serve Calgary and the citizens of Ward 11 never waned in the nearly 10 years he has served, and that he will continue to be committed to "building and supporting our community as I take my next step."

"I never wanted this to be my last job," Pincott told Metro. "On a personal level, it's about discovering what's next and being open to what's next."

In the letter, Pincott said he came in passionate about several issues and felt as though he achieved many of the goals he set when first taking office in 2007.

In his time in office, the quick-witted, oft sharp-tongued politician was also embroiled in several contentious issues, including the set up of a methadone clinic in the southwest Calgary community of Braeside and the push for a ban on shark fin soup in the city.

His commentary against chocolate and beets never turned his colleagues against him.

Most recently, Pincott was the lightning rod for community backlash over the proposed southwest Calgary Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), a project that ultimately went back to the drawing board in the summer of 2016.

"Yes, I had about 10 months there of just really brutal nastiness," said Pincott. "That erodes your soul, and it takes a toll, but being involved in those kinds of issues is part of the job."

He said what's disappointing is how people think they can participate in the public discourse. But that "never-ending onslaught," and the "deep depression" he's battled for three-and-a-half years had nothing to do with his ultimate decision.

"This is a professional decision," said Pincott. "I love this job, I want to be able to leave when I love the job."

Pincott also represented the city abroad with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and participated as a civic adviser in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. He's been trying to generate further support after the 2016 Hurricane Matthew.

Ward 11 has also been a hotly-contested battleground in municipal elections. Pincott fended off James Maxim in both the 2010 and 2013 municipal elections, each time winning by less than 2,000 votes. Pincott was set to face another big challenge in 2017, against former Manning Foundation researcher Jeromy Farkas.

"I'm hopeful that a good candidate will come forward," said Pincott. "A candidate that is committed to building an inclusive city for absolutely everyone, and helping move this city towards a sustainable path that allows people to flourish."

The long-time social advocate said he'll continue to work to make Calgary more inclusive and "remain dedicated to the deep egalitarian principles that I believe are embedded in the psyche of this great city, our strong province, and our welcoming and inclusive country."

What's next for the councillor? There's still work to be done at City Hall for Pincott, but once October rolls around he's considering options, including joining the provincial race in Mountain View — he's sure he wants to stay in Calgary.

POLICE

Union head, second officer to appear in court March 9

The president of Calgary's police union and a second officer — both charged in an assault relating to a traffic stop — did not make a scheduled court appearance Tuesday.

Sgt. Les Kaminski of the Calgary Police Association and Const. Brant Derrick chose to be represented by their lawyers instead.

They are next to appear in court March 9.

Kaminski, who became head of the 2,200-member union earlier this year, is charged with perjury and assault with a weapon.

Derrick is charged with assault causing bodily harm.

The charges stem from a 2008 traffic stop in downtown Calgary that resulted in the arrest of Jason Arkinstall, who was charged with uttering threats against Derrick.

A provincial court judge acquitted Arkinstall in 2011 and said in his written decision that Kaminski and Derrick were not credible witnesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Les Kaminski METRO FILE

POLITICS

Clark critical of rebate

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The Alberta Party has crunched the numbers and shown that when it comes to carbon tax rebates, some people are getting a much better deal than others.

In fact, Alberta Party leader Greg Clark is calling it a form of wealth redistribution, rather than a tool to reduce carbon emissions.

"A rebate is only a rebate when it pays back money you've spent on something," said Clark. "This is a bonus for a lot of people over and above what it actually costs them."

According to calculations done for the Alberta Party based on Statistics Canada numbers, the government will pay out $1.12 billion in rebates, while the total cost of the carbon tax to people making under $100,000 per year is expected to be $895 million.

> **A rebate is only a rebate when it pays back money you've spent on something.**
> Greg Clark

That means that $225 million will be handed back to Albertans above what they will pay in carbon tax.

What's more, low income Albertans saw a significantly higher gain on their rebates, according to Clark. People making between $20,000 and $40,000 per year realized about a 63 per cent gain over what they paid into the carbon tax.

He said while he supports rebates for people at the low end of the income scale, he'd rather see the carbon tax implemented in a revenue neutral way as it already has been in BC, with money used to bring down income and business tax rates.

"We have a huge business opportunity of we have the right kind of carbon tax," said Clark. "The NDP is making a mess of a simple policy."

In an emailed statement, Environment Minister Shannon Phillips didn't do much to counter Clark's wealth redistribution claims.

"Carbon rebates are putting money in Albertans' pockets who right now are struggling to get by," the statement read. "The government is making sure that all Albertans have what they need to get through these tough economic times."

Artistic directors Pete Balkwill and Xstine Cook believe in the realistic qualities puppets can take on. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Puppet fest returns

ARTS

Lineup has giant masks, a love affair with the moon

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Calgary's about to get drenched in the raw, real emotion that can only be delivered by a puppet.

This year's lineup for the Festival of Animated Objects, Calgary's annual puppetry theatre festival, has been announced, and it will showcase every possible medium of puppetry.

We're not stringing you along here, because one of the most interesting shows on the docket is a shadow puppet feature called Broken Sugar Bowl.

"Shadow puppetry goes down crazy rabbit holes — you can do layering, you can work with different mediums," said Pete Balkwill, curator of live programming. "The application of shadow puppetry goes way beyond just a simple black shadow on a white screen."

The show itself comes from award-winning poet Mildred Tremblay, and weaves three poems to create the story of the "Old Woman."

Balkwill himself takes to the stage with a remount of The Unlikely Birth of Istvan, one of the first show Old Trout Puppet Workshop created (back when they were working out of a barn).

Then there's Loon.

Loon is a show that works with oversized masks, from a company out of Portland.

"It's a delightful story of a man that falls in love with the moon."

And not all the action is taking place on the stage either — there will be roving suitcase puppet shows around the multiple venues where the shows will take place.

These Mini-Theatre Arcade shows are only a minute or two long, and are meant for one audience member at a time.

"Most people leave quite delighted," laughed puppeteer Kyle Hinton.

Balkwill said puppets, in any form, hearken back to the stone age, when our ancestors were trying to tell stories and make sense of the world from their caves.

"They sit on a shamanistic level. It takes a community to actually make the thing live and breathe," he said. "You take this effigy, this representation of something — which isn't the thing — and then you put it in front of a group of people and ask them to agree with you, that what you're holding is a turtle.

"It's not a turtle. It's a lump of wood. But everybody works to embrace the possible that this is now a turtle. In a weird, alchemic way — you actually create a turtle."

The festival takes place from March 16 to 19. For more information, visit www.puppetfestival.ca.

> **The application of shadow puppetry goes way beyond just a simple black shadow on a white screen.** Pete Balkwill

COMEDY

Jon Dore shares his formula for success

Comedian Jon Dore is performing in Calgary this week, and he gave Metro a special sneak peek into his act.

"At one point, I am going to be welcomed onto the stage," he explained. "I am going to grab the microphone and my voice will be amplified to the audience. Which works in my favour, in that, they know to listen to me, and if anyone's talking I can talk over them. So we're going to implement that age-old strategy, which seems to work."

From there, Dore promises to feed the audience information, and then surprise them with a misdirection, which should result in laughs.

"And I'll probably do that over and over again, until I reach my contractually obligated time that I'm supposed to do."

Dore has been a staple of the Canadian comedy scene for years, with regular appearances on Comedy Now!, the Jon Dore Television Show and Funny As Hell.

Despite his upbringing in Canada, Dore spends most of his time working in the U.S.

"It's nice to come home," he said. "The fact that I'm in Calgary performing, I'm getting a little excited."

The Ontario native is used to performing in Calgary — in fact, he said the Laugh Shop is one of his favourite clubs. Typically, he would come to the city and call out the Flames for not doing so well, but admits this year they're on the bubble.

At the end of the day, he's just happy doing standup, getting in front of any audience to steep in the love when things go well — or get back to the drawing board when things don't.

"It's what you do, and you do it. What else are you going to do? It's not like I'm going to reverse course and apply to be a bartender again," he said. "It's what you know, it's what you do, so you do it."

Dore performs at the Laugh Shop Feb. 9 to 11.

AARON CHATHA/METRO

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Number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths in Alberta in the last three months of 2016.

343

Number of Albertans who died of an apparent drug overdose in 2016. That's more than a 30 per cent increase from 2015.

257

Number of Albertans who died of an apparent drug overdose in 2015.

SOURCE: ALBERTA HEALTH

The province announced troubling statistics on opioid deaths Tuesday, prompting some politicians to call for more effort at solving the problem.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opioid death toll grows higher

ADDICTIONS

Province needs to move now on 2015 advice, doctor says

Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

One of the authors of Alberta's Mental Health Review (MHR) is anxious to see what the province's next move is, after 13 months of relative silence.

Mental illness is often intertwined with addiction, and each exasperates the other, according to Dr. David Swann, co-chair of the MHR.

Last year, 343 Albertans died of apparent drug overdoses related to fentanyl, according to data released by Alberta Health on Tuesday.

That's more than a 30 per cent increase from 2015, when 257 people died from apparent overdoses.

Swann said the provincial government must take a comprehensive approach to Alberta's opioid crisis, starting with implementing the recommendations from the review published in December 2015.

"I appreciate it takes time, but I think we deserve an update," Swann said.

The MHR calls for better collaboration between the province and stakeholders to identify mental health problems earlier in life, provide the right care in a timely manner, and offer comprehensive support to those struggling with addiction.

"Nobody chooses to live a life of addiction, it's a terrible life," Swann said.

Many people struggling with opiate addiction come out of traumatic childhoods, or are unable to transition off a legitimate opioid prescription in a healthy way, leaving them to take to the streets as recourse, according to Swann.

"In many cases, it renders them powerless to do anything with their lives that they would choose to do, if they were able," he said, emphasizing a complete support system including counselling, stable housing, social and spiritual support, and opioid replacement therapy (ORT) needs to be in place for success.

"It's going to take more resources, there's just no way around it," Swann said.

> **It's going to take more resources, there's just no way around it.**
> Dr. David Swann

An implementation committee for the review's recommendations has been working to decide the province's next steps, according to Brandy Payne, Alberta's associate minister of health.

"There's quite a lot of work going on behind the scenes," Payne said.

The province announced new actions to address the crisis Tuesday, including two additional ORT clinics for Alberta — one in Grand Prairie that will open this spring, and one in the Central Zone. The exact location is being determined, but Payne hopes it will open by the end of this year.

Detoxification beds have also been added in Medicine Hat and Calgary, with some on the way for Red Deer and Lethbridge.

"We've been focusing on harm reduction and expanding treatment access," Payne said.

"We know the need is high across the province."

Swann said the province would save "millions" if people could access comprehensive supports when they need it, rather than weeks later.

"Just treating the symptom of the addictions, which is taking ORT and getting people out of the illegal system. It isn't enough," Swann said.

He also said better communication is needed between the different ministries and professionals on the front line such as health workers, police forces, social workers and emergency responders.

TRANSPARENCY

Fentanyl reporting not enough

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta's decision to increase the frequency of its reporting of fentanyl death statistics does not go far enough, some critics say.

On Tuesday, as the province released its fourth-quarter numbers of 2016 fentanyl overdose deaths, it promised quarterly reports on opioid deaths from now on, as well as interim reports on fentanyl deaths every six weeks.

But Petra Schulz, who lost a son to fentanyl overdose, is puzzled by the exclusion of opioids other than fentanyl from the interim reports.

She told Metro on Monday there is a need for faster reporting of overdose numbers.

"It's a step in the right direction, but why limit it to fentanyl? We need the full picture," said Schulz, an instructor in MacEwan University's faculty of health and community studies.

A report released in late 2016 showed that while 52 people fatally overdosed on fentanyl in Edmonton from January through September of 2016, a higher number — 63 — were killed by opioids other than fentanyl.

Public health doctors have also called for real-time surveillance of opioid overdose data in Alberta.

But associate Health Minister Brandy Payne said Tuesday the process to get accurate overdose numbers is rigorous and it is taking time for the province to catch up on reporting data.

"Interim reporting on fentanyl numbers strikes that balance between timeliness of the data, as well as accuracy of the data," said Payne.

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Calgary's first poké place

FOOD

Try the darling of foodie world, a Hawaiian-style raw fish salad

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

David and Cindy Nguyen will be opening Po-ke, Calgary's first poké restaurant, at the end of February at 908A Centre St. N.E. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

It took an hour — but, after frantically searching for his wife on Venice Beach in L.A., David Nguyen finally found Cindy holding a colourful bowl of poké at the good end of a long line.

"That was when he thought, if people are willing to stand and wait for an hour for food, it must be big," laughed Cindy.

Incredulous, David tried a bite for himself and said he was "instantly hooked."

Thus launched Po-ke: Calgary's first "aloha" to the hit Hawaiian dish. The couple is set to open their downtown restaurant at the end of February.

Pronounced "poh-keh," which literally means "to chop" in Hawaiian, the marinated raw fish salad became so popular on the island state that it's now taken the world by storm. Traditional poké bowls are made of ahi tuna, marinated in soy and sesame, and topped with green onion. However, modern takes have surfaced across North America — with Vancouver and Toronto landing their own stops in 2016.

"I think there's a lot of hype," said Cindy. "But even when we put out the ad to hire staff, we were asking them, 'Do you know what poké is?' and they would say, 'No, but I've heard of it — and I love sushi!' It's still relatively new to North America, but the concept really blew up in the past year."

And (despite Cindy's decade-long love for the dish) the hype has even surpassed the couple's expectations.

As soon as news of the opening hit, Po-ke's social media was flooded with comments and requests for opening dates.

"It caught us totally off guard," said David.

"We expected it to take off because it's a different concept for Calgary, but we haven't even opened yet. So it's been quite the experience."

Merging Hawaiian, Japanese and Western influences, Po-ke's 850 square-foot location on Centre Street will feature four signature poké bowls as well as build-your-own bowls and sushi burritos.

Cindy and David said they have no doubts that this is just the beginning of Calgary's foray into poké – and if the ever-growing market across North America is any indication, they may be right on the money.

"It's a new concept that not a lot of people in Calgary have ever experienced before," said David.

"It's something different, it's something healthy, and it just keeps growing because of the demand for it."

YES CHEF

What to expect: Po-ke's signature bowls.

- **Po-ke Special Bowl:** Ahi tuna and salmon is tossed in the house-made signature sauce and topped with seaweed salad, avocado, mandarin oranges, masago, sesame seeds, shredded nori and unagi sauce.
- **La Traditional Bowl:** A slight twist on the Hawaiian classic, the ahi tuna is tossed in shoyu and sea salt, topped with seaweed salad, avocado, sesame seeds, nori and onion.
- **Salmon Bowl:** Salmon tossed in ponzu sauce and topped with cucumber, corn, onion, crab salad, seaweed salad and sriracha aioli.
- **Hurricane Bowl:** Diners can choose any protein, including tuna, salmon, scallops or tofu, and then the bowl is loaded with all the fixings — including corn flakes.

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ARTS

Cabbie picks up Juno nod and a fare

After the 2017 Juno Award nominees were announced Tuesday, Daniel Nebiat was in a particularly good mood, and for good reason: He had just learned his musical group was among the contenders.

But instead of going out to celebrate, he left the nominations ceremony at Toronto's Rebel nightclub, got back in his cab, and picked up a fare in front of the club.

Nebiat, a 44-year-old musician originally from Eritrea, is one of nine members that make up the Okavango African Orchestra, which was nominated for the World Music Album of the Year. He plays the krar, a six-stringed instrument from Eritrea and Ethiopia, sings in his native Tigrigna and, for the past three years, has been a driver for Toronto's Co-op cabs. For him, Tuesday started like any other shift.

"I woke up at 3 o'clock in the morning, I started driving at 4 o'clock," Nebiat said. But then "they told me to come (to the ceremony) ... so I came there, parked my car and went in."

Nebiat said he's been singing since he was a child, taking part in an Eritrean tradition of going door to door for New Year's and singing for neighbours in exchange for small gifts or money. At 11, he used the money he'd earned to buy his first krar.

"I don't want it to sound like a cliché, but family doesn't want you to be a musician and my mom was not happy" about the krar, Nebiat recalled. "She got rid of it, she broke it."

The cycle — Nebiat would buy a krar, his mother would break it, he'd go sing to earn more money to buy another one — would continue until he was about 16, when his mother, who ran a café, asked him to help with the business.

"She didn't have nobody to help her in the restaurant, so she asked me to work there," Nebiat said. "I said, 'OK, if you let me play my music, I'll help you,' so she stopped breaking my instruments."

Nebiat said his mother has since become his biggest fan.

After immigrating to Toronto in 1996, Nebiat continued playing the krar and singing, performing at weddings, community functions and concerts while occasionally supplementing his income with a courier or delivery gig, but said he decided to take up driving a taxi after getting married and starting a family three years ago.

"I have kids now, so life is a little bit more complicated than when you are single. . . . So to support my kids and my family, I have to do taxi," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Daniel Nebiat is part of the Okavango African Orchestra, which was nominated Tuesday for the 2017 Juno World Music Album of the Year. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yahya Samatar, a Somali man who swam across the Red River from North Dakota to Manitoba and has since been granted refugee status. TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Border town puts up asylum seekers

REFUGEES

'Starting to get overwhelmed,' says local reeve

An increasing number of people seeking asylum are braving the elements of the open prairie to come into Canada from the United States, says the head of one small community that is calling for federal help to deal with the influx.

Last weekend alone, 22 people crossed the border from North Dakota into Emerson-Franklin, RCMP confirmed Tuesday. Nineteen were put up in a community hall and were supervised and fed by officials and volunteers in the community of some 2,000 residents.

"It's starting to get overwhelmed here, and now we're starting to have concerns that we maybe need to have more security or do something different," said Greg Janzen, the municipality's reeve.

The area has always seen the occasional border jumper, due to the short walk from communities such as Pembina or Noyes in North Dakota to Emerson-Franklin, which sits right on the boundary. But the numbers have increased in recent months and have shot up dramatically in the last couple of weeks following planned new restrictions in the U.S. on refugees.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said Tuesday border crossings in other parts of the country have also seen an increase, but the overall numbers are not as high as they were several years ago.

One of the crossers was Yahya Samatar. Originally from Somalia and fearing persecution from a group affiliated with al-Qaida, he went to the United States and was denied refugee status. Eventually, he made his way from Minneapolis to the border area not far from Emerson-Franklin.

He got lost, saw the Red River and jumped in, hoping that Canada was on the other side. After getting out and walking for 45 minutes, he came across a Good Samaritan who helped him. He has been allowed to stay in Canada and now works in Winnipeg..

"When a person is very desperate, you have to take any options that can save your life," Samatar said.

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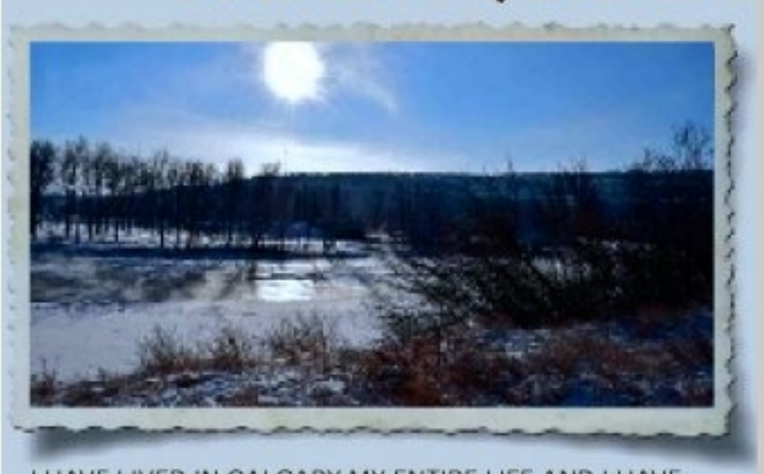

I HAVE LIVED IN CALGARY MY ENTIRE LIFE AND I HAVE SEEN MOST OF THE WONDERS CANADA HAS TO SHOW, FROM NOTRE DAME IN MONTREAL TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN B.C. THIS VIEW OF THE BOW RIVER, STANDING IN THIS SPOT THAT I TOOK THESE PICTURES, IS THE MOST SURREAL PLACE I HAVE EVER BEEN.
KAYLA MCNIVEN

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. You can get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. You can email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

Growing backlash over Trump brand

BOYCOTT

Some shoppers urge HBC to dump Ivanka products

After a major U.S. retailer decided it wouldn't carry Ivanka Trump's brand — a business decision Nordstrom's said was unrelated to her controversial father — some consumers are urging Hudson's Bay to do the same, but for political reasons.

On a Hudson's Bay Instagram post Monday one commenter said: "Please drop Ivanka Trump-branded clothing and shoes #boycottHBC #dumptrump #dumpivanka," under an image of a hair dryer that was not associated with the brand's products.

On the company's previous post, of a non-Ivanka Trump sports bra, gym bag and running shoes, a commenter said, "Stop selling Trump crap and I'll

Ivanka Trump GETTY IMAGES

by one," and another added: "Do the right thing. Take a stand and stop selling all #Trump branded products. #GrabYourWallet #DumpTrump."

On Twitter, some started using the hashtag, "#baycott."

The Hudson Bay Company's response did not directly address whether or not it had considered dropping the brand.

"Across our banners, we aim to a deliver a strong assortment of fashion. We respect our customers' right to choose the brands that work for them," wrote Brigitte Timmins, corporate communications manager at Hudson's Bay in an e-mail on Tuesday. "In turn, our customers' choices inform our decisions on which merchandise we offer."

Hudson's Bay describes itself as "Canada's Iconic Department Store." The website for the Ivanka Trump brand describes itself as "creating the ultimate destination for Women Who Work."

Last October, a boycotting campaign, #GrabYourWallet launched "when a brand strategist and a grandmother simultaneously realized they could no longer in good conscience shop at retailers that do business with the Trump family," according to its website.

The campaign features a boycott list and separate list it calls "100% Trump-Free Alternatives." The website also features a list of companies who were initially on its boycott list but have since been dropped.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Inquiry to break legal ground

Canadians should not expect to see hearings like those that unfold in courtrooms during the course of the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women, lead commissioner Marion Buller said Tuesday.

The inquiry will instead provide a way for Indigenous people to tell their own stories in their own way, Buller told a news conference in Ottawa along with her fellow commissioners and members of the inquiry's legal team.

The national inquiry, which is still on schedule to begin in the spring, will be unlike anything the country has seen from a legal standpoint, added Susan Vella, the lead counsel for the study.

"Right now, it is a very flexible concept, obviously, and it has to be," Vella said. "The commissioners are entitled to receive information which might not otherwise be admissible in evidence in a court. This is a usual power of commissioners."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SOMALIA

Election amid vast turmoil

Colorful campaign posters in this seaside capital give the impression that Somalia's presidential election on Wednesday will be like any other. That's far from true.

Mogadishu is in lockdown because of threats from homegrown Islamic extremist group al-Shabab. The airport will be closed, and the vote will be confined to a heavily protected former air force base nearby. Police said two mortar rounds fired by suspected extremists struck in the area Tuesday night. Fears of attacks already have delayed the vote several times.

But suicide bombings aren't the biggest threat as this Horn of Africa country, after a quarter-century, tries to put a fully functioning government in place under strong international pressure. Graft — vote-buying, fraud, intimidation — is the top concern in a nation that Transparency International now rates as the most corrupt in the world.

After decades of chaos and warlord-led conflict, the vote will be historic in this country of about 12 million. But observers worry whether it will be credible.

Already the country's auditor general, Nur Jimale Farah, has said two of the seats for parliament members who will elect the president have gone for $1.3 million apiece. Unlike in elections elsewhere, Somalia's next leader will not be chosen by popular vote but by legislators, who were selected by the country's powerful, intricate network of clans.

"Some votes were bought with $5,000, some with $10,000, and some with $20,000 or $30,000," Farah recently told Voice of America.

"This is probably the most expensive election, per vote, in history," the Mogadishu-based anti-corruption group Marqaati said in a report released Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Confusion reigns in the modern White House

POLITICS

More mixed messages from U.S. president and his team

Donald Trump's press secretary stood at the White House podium and delivered a message to the world: Trump's executive order was "not a travel ban" and "not extreme."

Sean Spicer's words last week were duly reported. Then Trump went on Twitter and touted his "travel ban." His phrase for it: "extreme vetting."

It was yet another mixed message from an administration that has made a dizzying early specialty of them.

On matters semantic and significant, the U.S. President and his team have left America's allies and adversaries suffering through the world's highest-stakes involuntary guessing game, struggling to decipher just what it is this government actually means.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has dispatched at least three ministers to Washington this week. They will work to build relationships with the young administration. They will also seek clarity.

The pressing question is not only whether anyone who is not Trump can accurately speak for Trump. It is which Trump words are the magic Trump words.

"That's a question that is already being asked inside the bureaucracy: when the president tweets something, how literally should we take that? And I think the answer is, we don't know yet," said Philip J. Crowley, an assistant secretary of state under Barack Obama. "And I suspect inside the White House, they don't know yet either."

The confusion may not exclusively be evidence of inexperience and inevitable first-month disorganization, although that seems part of it. Trump has argued, in his campaign book and in interviews, that a president should use "the element of surprise" to keep opponents "off balance" — creating his own version of Richard Nixon's "madman theory" of diplomacy.

"In the foreign policy world, predictability is a very significant currency. And yet we have in the president someone who prides himself on being unpredictable, even impulsive," Crowley said. "Whether this is a permanent feature of the Trump administration, or just a phase as the president learns the nature of the job, that's a question I'm not sure we have an answer for yet."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRAVEL BAN

- A panel of appeals court judges reviewing President Donald Trump's travel ban hammered away Tuesday at the federal government's arguments that the states cannot challenge the order.
- The hearing before the San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals judges was the greatest legal challenge yet to the ban.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer fields questions about U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order travel ban and other topics. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

A satellite image of the military-run Saydnaya prison.
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SYRIA

Up to 13,000 hanged in 'slaughterhouse'

The Syrian prison was known to detainees as "the slaughterhouse." Behind its closed doors, the military police hanged as many of 13,000 people over the course of four years before carting out their bodies by the truckload for burial in mass graves, according to a new report issued by Amnesty International.

The report, issued on Tuesday, said that 20-50 people were hanged each week, sometimes twice a week, at the Saydnaya prison in what the organization called a "calculated campaign of extrajudicial execution."

The report covers the period from the start of the March 2011 uprising to December 2015, when Amnesty says between 5,000 and 13,000 people were hanged.

Lynn Maalouf, deputy director for research at Amnesty's regional office in Beirut, said there is no reason to believe the practice has stopped since then, with thousands more probably killed.

Amnesty said the killings were authorized by senior Syrian officials, including deputies of President Bashar Assad.

"The horrors depicted in this report reveal a hidden, monstrous campaign, authorized at the highest levels of the Syrian government, aimed at crushing any form of dissent within the Syrian population," Maalouf said.

"These executions take place after a sham trial that lasts over a minute or two minutes, but they are authorized by the highest levels of authority," including the Grand Mufti, a top religious authority in Syria, and the defence minister.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government on Tuesday, and Amnesty said Damascus didn't respond to its own letter seeking comment. Syrian government officials rarely comment on allegations of torture and mass killings. In the past, they have denied reports of massacres documented by international human rights groups, describing them as propaganda.

The Amnesty report prompted a strong reaction from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who, "was horrified about what was in the report," according to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

Amnesty had recorded at least 35 different methods of torture in Syria since the late 1980s, Maalouf said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Israeli law to derail two-state solution

PALESTINE

Move will legalize West Bank settler outposts

A new Israeli law legalizing dozens of unlawfully built West Bank settlement outposts came under heavy criticism on Tuesday from some of Israel's closest allies, as local rights groups prepared to ask the Supreme Court to overturn the measure.

Amid the uproar, the Trump administration remained quiet about the law — paving the way for further possible action by emboldened Israeli hard-liners ahead of a trip to the White House by Israel's prime minister next week.

The law was "a first step in a series of measures that we must take in order to make our presence in Judea and Samaria present for years, for decades, for ages," Israeli Cabinet Minister Yariv Levin said, using the biblical name for the West Bank. "I do believe that our right over our fatherland is something that cannot be denied."

The law, passed late Monday, sets out to legalize dozens of West Bank settler outposts built on privately owned Palestinian land. Proponents claimed the communities, home to thousands of people and in some cases decades old, were built in "good faith" and quietly backed by a string of Israeli governments.

President Francois Hollande, right, greets Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas prior to their meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday. KAMIL ZIHNIOGLU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

But critics said the law amounts to legalized land theft. They also said it is legally problematic by imposing Israeli law on occupied land that is not sovereign Israeli territory and where its Palestinian residents do not have citizenship or the right to vote.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank and east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as parts of a future independent state. Most of the international community considers Israeli settlements illegal and counterproductive to peace. Some 600,000 Israelis now live in the two areas.

In Paris, Palestinian official Saeb Erekat said the law puts "the last nail in the coffin of the two-state solution" and accused the Israeli government of "trying to legalize looting Palestinian land."

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed "deep regret" over the bill, saying it was "in contravention of international law and will have far-reaching legal consequences for Israel."

"The secretary-general insists on the need to avoid any action that would derail the two-state solution," spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Some of Israel's closest allies, including Germany, Britain and the Czech Republic, condemned the legislation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Former president faces fraud charges

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was ordered Tuesday to stand trial in an inquiry into alleged campaign finance fraud during his failed 2012 re-election bid, the Paris prosecutor's office said.

Sarkozy and 13 other "protagonists" will go to court on the order of a magistrate to answer allegations that his presidential campaign spent well above the legal ceiling of 22.5 million euros ($24 million) and tried to cover it up fraudulently, the office said.

Nicolas Sarkozy THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The claims centre on whether the 61-year-old politician was aware of alleged false billing and fraud linked to PR company Bygmalion, where some executives have acknowledged false accounting.

Sarkozy denies any wrongdoing and his camp says it will appeal the decision.

The news may further erode public trust in politics as Sarkozy's former No. 2, Francois Fillon, their party's candidate in this spring's presidential election, fights for his political life over an investigation into whether well-paid political jobs he gave his wife, son and daughter were fake.

Conservative lawmakers have been summoned Tuesday for a meeting at Fillon's headquarters to form a united front around the ex-prime minister ahead of the April-May elections.

In 2011, former President Jacques Chirac was given a two-year suspended jail sentence in a scandal over phoney jobs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFGHANISTAN

Suicide attack kills 19 at courthouse

A suicide bomber struck an entrance to Afghanistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday, killing at least 19 people in the latest in a series of attacks on the country's judiciary.

The attacker was on foot, and targeted a side door as court employees and other people were exiting the building in downtown Kabul, the Interior Ministry said. Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz said 41 people were wounded, including 10 in critical condition.

No one immediately claimed the attack, which bore the hallmarks of the Taliban. The insurgents have been at war with the U.S.-backed government for 15 years and have increasingly targeted the judiciary since the execution of six convicted insurgents last May.

Shortly after the executions, a suicide bomber targeted a minibus carrying court employees in Kabul, killing 11 people in an attack claimed by the Taliban. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The country posted back-to-back monthly trade surpluses for the first time since September 2014, boosted by higher prices for exports of oil and natural gas in December, Statistics Canada said Tuesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian economy posts trade surplus

ENERGY

Natural gas, oil exports boost consecutive monthly totals

The country posted back-to-back monthly trade surpluses for the first time since September 2014, boosted by higher prices for exports of oil and natural gas in December, Statistics Canada said Tuesday.

But the gain in energy prices hid some troubling weakness in non-energy exports, economists said.

The overall trade surplus hit $923 million for the final month of 2016 after a surplus the previous month that was revised upward to $1 billion from an initial reading of $526 million.

The result exceeded expectations, as economists had anticipated a surplus of $350 million for December.

Jennifer Lee, a senior economist with BMO Capital Markets, said the monthly trade figures have taken on greater significance as of late.

"These days, international trade reports are scrutinized, not just for their impact on GDP, but the political ramifications as well," Lee said in a research note to clients.

"Running surpluses will draw unwanted attention (from the U.S.)."

Trade was a key issue for U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign, during which he said the United States needed to take a tougher approach.

While Trump has focused much of his attention on his country's trade relationship with Mexico and China, some have raised concerns that Canada could face collateral damage in a trade dispute.

> **We've likely seen the best of the bounce in the trade balance.**
> Nick Exarhos

Canada maintained its trade surplus with the U.S. in December, though it narrowed to $4.4 billion from $4.7 billion in November.

Exports to the U.S. edged up 0.2 per cent to $34.2 billion in December, while imports from the United States increased 1.3 per cent to $29.7 billion.

Overall, exports in December gained 0.8 per cent to a record $46.4 billion due to higher energy product prices.

Imports rose one per cent to $45.5 billion in December, due in large part to imports of aircraft and industrial machinery.

CIBC economist Nick Exarhos said the overall trend in real exports is still stuck in a range and he has concerns that protectionist policies in the U.S. have the potential to slow, or even derail a recovery in manufacturing.

"Combined with limited upside for energy prices over the coming months, and the fact that there's room for imports to play catch-up, we've likely seen the best of the bounce in the trade balance for a while," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter expands its anti-hate campaign

Twitter announced Tuesday that it is expanding efforts to protect its users from abuse and harassment, the latest milestone in a broader, growing corporate campaign against online hate.

The company said it has begun identifying people who have been banned for abusive behaviour and it will stop them from making new accounts.

In July, Twitter banned conservative provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos, an editor of the right-wing news site Breitbart News, for "participating in or inciting targeted abuse of individuals." Twitter subsequently suspended the accounts of other prominent figureheads of the "alt-right" fringe movement, an amorphous mix of racism, white nationalism, xenophobia and anti-feminism.

Twitter has been under fire for failing to address hate and abuse on the site since its founding a decade ago. Balancing its reputation as a free speech haven has come into conflict with efforts to protect users. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Feds to give Bombardier a $372-million lifeline

The federal government will give Bombardier $372 million in repayable loans, according to a source who requested anonymity. Several cabinet ministers including Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains and Transport Minister Marc Garneau scheduled a news conference at a Bombardier facility in Montreal at 6:30 p.m. ET. Bombardier has been appealing for $1 billion US in federal assistance since 2015. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JESSICA ALLEN ON DECIDING WHAT YOU VALUE

Boycotting a product or service to make a political statement is one thing. But follow the money, and it gets a lot more complicated.

Sometime in the late '90s at a friend's backyard barbecue, I remember meeting a woman who refused a bowl of ice cream.

She was boycotting the brand, which I don't remember. But they'd done something terrible.

While I ate mine (strawberry, I believe), I noticed she was wearing Nike trainers. It must've been right after Michael Moore's 1997 The Big One, a documentary in which Moore meets with Nike CEO Phil Knight and asks him to manufacture his shoes in America rather than in Indonesian sweatshops.

"How did she choose to boycott the ice cream over the shoes?" I thought. And, as I realized everything I was wearing — from my socks to my hair elastic — was probably made under ethically and environmentally questionable circumstances, it occurred to me: If I want to put my money where my mouth is, the only alternative is to go live in a tree house.

Flash forward to today and whatever your beliefs, there's a boycott for you.

Say you support Donald Trump's executive order banning refugees and travellers from seven mostly Muslim countries. Then, you might choose to boycott Starbucks because the coffee company promised to hire 10,000 refugees. Or perhaps Budweiser, whose Super Bowl commercial was decidedly pro-immigration.

If you detest the ban, you can boycott anything that says Trump on it, like his hotels and neckties, or his daughter Ivanka's fashion lines.

You may have also been one of the 200,000 who deleted the Uber app after the ridesharing company was seen as undercutting the largely Muslim, 19,000-strong New York Taxi Workers Alliance.

The day after Trump signed his executive order, the alliance called for a one-hour freeze on pickups at JFK airport to show solidarity with thousands of protesters who'd gathered at the airport.

"We cannot be silent. We go to work to welcome people to a land that once welcomed us. We will not be divided," they tweeted.

But #DeleteUber wasn't just trending on Twitter because Uber drivers ignored the freeze and shut off their surge pricing.

Back in December, their chief executive Travis Kalanick was asked to join an economic advisory council with Trump.

The proximity to that name was enough to encourage many to switch to Lyft, another rideshare service, that recently announced it was donating $1 million US to the ACLU. But then it became known that two of Trump's advisers are major Lyft investors.

In other words, things got complicated. But deleting seemed far more effective in the moment than distilling.

Distilling would've required taking the time to ask what is wrong with Kalanick taking part in the economic advisory council, and, more importantly, what is this council?

The Strategic and Policy Forum, according to Trump's website greatagain.gov, is a chance for 16 business leaders "to provide direct input to the President from many of the best and brightest in the business world in a frank, non-bureaucratic and non-partisan manner."

Let's say you want to protest Trump's immigration policies by boycotting Uber: It's not quite as clear-cut as you think. GETTY

Who else is going? CEOs and representatives of Tesla, Pepsi Co. General Motors, Walt Disney, Boeing, IBM, JPMorgan Chase, Walmart, and Daniel Yergin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and energy analyst, among others.

Do we boycott them, too?

Kalanick emailed his staff to explain why having a seat at this table wasn't an endorsement of the president, but a chance to effect change, and "that by speaking up and engaging we can make a difference."

Days later, Kalanick removed himself from that table: "The implicit assumption that Uber (or I) was somehow endorsing the Administration's agenda has created a perception-reality gap between who people think we are, and who we actually are."

Which is a shame because a businessperson with clout will not take part in a conversation that could greatly affect the American economy.

I didn't delete my Uber app, although I should because they can't find my house on their navigation system. Actually, I probably should never have downloaded it in the first place.

They didn't just undermine New York City taxi drivers during the protest. Their entire business model undercuts those drivers every single day.

The ridesharing enterprise is based on incentivizing workers to undervalue their labour. Many drivers are supplementing a menial day job with the earnings from another. If you choose Uber, you're not thoughtfully considering how your dollars translate into the world we live in.

That is the problem.

Faced with an increasingly complicated and politicized world, it's time to start looking beyond hashtags and realize that every decision — from the $4 ride to the $4 socks — has political implications.

The problem isn't how to spend your money, the problem is deciding what you value and being savvy enough to make sure you aren't accidentally supporting it.

But cheap socks are amazing. That's the hard part. If you begin to follow the money, the tree house starts looking better and better.

It's time to start looking beyond hashtags and realize that every decision has political implications.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Our refugee policy is tested now that the crisis is at our door

The next few years will test the strength of Refugees Welcome. And I worry it is a test Canada is doomed to fail. While Canada has moved on with generosity and relative openness to the Syrian crisis, many of the world's refugees have been left in a confusing lurch.

The Trudeau government has committed to playing a part in bringing over refugees from Syria. But even in that, their response has been haphazard. For example, in December, Ottawa placed a cap on private-sponsor applications for Syrian and Iraqi refugees at 1,000 for 2017.

That is only a fraction of the 13,000 Syrian refugees that arrived in Canada via the private sponsorship program in 2016 alone.

For many families and community groups on the private sponsorship list, the announcement was a surprise; while the government sorts through a massive backlog, they have waited, ready and willing.

The private sponsorship option is Canada's flagship PR-friendly program; it is a standout program that is cited by experts for its uniqueness and superb co-ordination.

A speedy and co-ordinated response is essential. The global refugee crisis has now arrived at our borders.

According to the Toronto Star, border guards in Quebec reported a threefold rise in migrants walking across the border to claim asylum in Canada. In many spots, including Emerson, Man., communities along the U.S.-Canada border are reporting a substantial increase in migrants trekking through treacherous weather.

The election of U.S. President Donald Trump, and the subsequent travel ban on seven mostly Muslim countries, has only increased the volume of asylum claimants crossing the border from the U.S. into Canada.

The government response has been lacklustre. After Trump's executive order, Prime Minister Trudeau tweeted, "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canada will welcome you, regardless of your faith." For many, this was seen as an open invitation (and defiance of Donald Trump). And yet, when pressed on it, Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen clarified that there would be no actual increase in the number of refugees Canada would welcome. The U.S. would keep its designation as a safe country.

For migrants from Muslim countries, the U.S. is not a safe option. In fact, as Daily Xtra reported, LGBTQ refugees from Iran — an Islamic country hostile to queer citizens — are now stranded in Turkey, a largely Muslim country already overwhelmed with refugees. They'd been promised asylum under the Harper government. They are now being told by the Canadian embassy to apply to the United States, a nation presided over by a man hostile to all Muslims.

As the American situation unfolds and crises in South Sudan and Venezuela become more urgent, this lack of coherence will show up at our doors.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

The Bunnies are back... Three decades after the original Playboy Club closed in New York, a victim of changing tastes and views on women, a new one will debut later this year a few blocks from Times Square.

A meal that made you fall in love

There's nothing more romantic than staying home and cooking for a loved one. A simple meal that shows off your skills and thoughtfulness is much more meaningful than ordering off a menu. We asked readers what they made for their significant others during their early stages of dating or as newlyweds. Here are a few of their stories. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lakshmi

My husband Ghopal was my brother's friend and we knew each other for five years before we got married in Hyderabad, India. When we got engaged I made him upma, a south Indian bread dish, because I had bread in the house and it's a quick dish that he never had before. I learned how to make it from my mom and he still enjoys it today after 47 years of marriage! We moved to Toronto 43 years ago and both love introducing our dishes to our friends and neighbours. Ghopal does the chopping and I do the cooking, but he also makes really good curry puffs. My husband used to work at Sears and I would bring him lunch and we'd eat it in the cafeteria together. Now we're both artists where he'll draw and I'll paint. We love doing things together.

Karen

First, I must point out that my dad loved my meat loaf. In fact, my whole family loved my meat loaf. So when I made it as a newlywed for my husband I expected a warm reception. But my husband was surprised that I didn't cover it with a tin of tomato soup like his mom did. He was downright mystified by the garlic. It wasn't his momma's meat loaf, which he professed to love, but I carried on, knowing that it would be his new favourite. I could not have been more wrong. It seems that while I was cleaning up that night, he tried to flush the meat loaf down the toilet. The toilet got completely stopped so we had the superintendent come up with a plunger to our new apartment. That happened in September 1970 when we were both 18 and remarkably we're still together.

Benjamin

Eleven years ago when I lived in Cleveland, I met Carolyn at a creative workshop and we had a long-distance relationship for about eight months. I bragged to her that I was a good cook and on her first visit, I told her to play Iron Chef: name one ingredient and I'd make an entrée with it. She said chocolate. I made her chicken breasts with a mole sauce. We married in 2007 and ironically, she has since given up chocolate and is now a vegetarian.

Nancy

I met my husband when we went to the same college in Illinois in 1965. When I graduated, we moved to Canada and got married. His family is from Estonia, so I wanted to learn the language and pay attention to his customs. I never learned the language very well but I did learn to make rosolje, a traditional beet salad that his family made at Christmas. He bought the salted herring and chopped up many of the ingredients: beets, apples, potatoes, meat and pickles. I realized at that point that he had good culinary skills. I was surprised. That was in 1967. We continued to make rosolje every Christmas and we plan on making it this July for our 50th wedding anniversary.

Donalda

The first meal I made for my husband Roy was a TV dinner when I was 20. I took the dinners out of the freezer, read the instructions, turned on the oven and put them in. I picked up a magazine to read while they cooked. Eventually the timer went off and I took out the TV dinners, which still had frost on top. I didn't realize you had to preheat the oven. Roy never said anything about my mistake. He's been very faithful complementing me about enjoying what I've made for us to eat. As the years passed, I've become a very good cooks. Roy and I have been married for 60 years since last November. Needless to say, I've learned to turn on the oven at the proper time and temperature.

Irene

Back in the 1960s when my future husband and I were young, a Sunday dinner was always crowned with my mom's homemade pie. Usually it would be apple because we had a Duchess apple tree that gifted us with delicious red-striped beauties. After one of my mom's roasted beef dinners and indulging in his second piece of pie, the love of my life didn't stop complimenting the luscious flavour of the pie. It was a thrill to hear, because unbeknownst to him I made that pie. I think this must have been the true test of him falling in love with me, not only as his sweetheart but also as someone who could satisfy his sweet tooth. After 50 years of wedded bliss, his favourite dessert is still my homemade, warm apple pie with a slice of sharp cheddar on the side.

Passion play melts palates and hearts

RECIPE

This fun cake can set pulses really racing on Valentine's Day

Ricardo Larrivée
For Torstar News Service

This Molten Chocolate Cake is super simple to make. SUPPLIED

Make this delectable molten chocolate cake and we promise that your heart won't be the only thing melting this Valentine's Day!

I developed this recipe with ultimate decadence in mind. It's a sultry treat that combines all of my favourite things — eggs, butter, sugar and flour — into the richest, most delicious end to any meal.

The recipe makes enough for four, but be warned, it's sure to inspire the passions! The kicker is that it's simple as can be to make: Just whisk, melt, fold in and bake, for a total of 20 short minutes of prep. In other words, you'll have plenty of time left over to write those Valentine's cards...

Molten Chocolate Cake
Makes four servings.

Ingredients:
- 3 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) unsalted butter
- 4 oz (115 g) dark chocolate, chopped
- 1/3 cup (80 mL) unbleached all-purpose flour

Directions:
1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 375 F/190 C.

2. Generously butter and flour four 1/2 cup (125 mL) ramekins.

3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, egg yolks and sugar until light and fluffy.

4. In a saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Add chocolate and stir until melted. Gently stir in egg mixture. Fold in flour.

5. Divide among the ramekins and bake for 10 minutes.

6. Unmould immediately onto plates. The centre of the cakes should be runny. Garnish with red berries and icing sugar, if desired.

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Look before you dip

Aiming to snack smart? The dip you pick can make all the difference.

PICK THIS

Summer Fresh Roasted Red Pepper Dip (4 Tbsp)

Calories 60
Fat 4g
Sodium 120mg

SKIP THIS

Summer Fresh Artichoke & Asiago Dip (4 Tbsp)

Calories 280
Fat 30g
Sodium 320mg

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent to a BK Double Stacker in fat (29g) from Burger King

Artichokes conjure up ideas of healthy eating, but this dip includes way more than the nutritious veggie. The first ingredient is mayonnaise, which accounts for the high calorie and fat content. You're having half your daily fat intake with just four tablespoons of this dip! The roasted red pepper dip's first ingredient is roasted bell pepper, followed by sour cream, which has about one-third of the calories and fat of the mayonnaise. This makes for a much lighter dip overall!

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

No need to waste pirate's ransom on these, Johnny

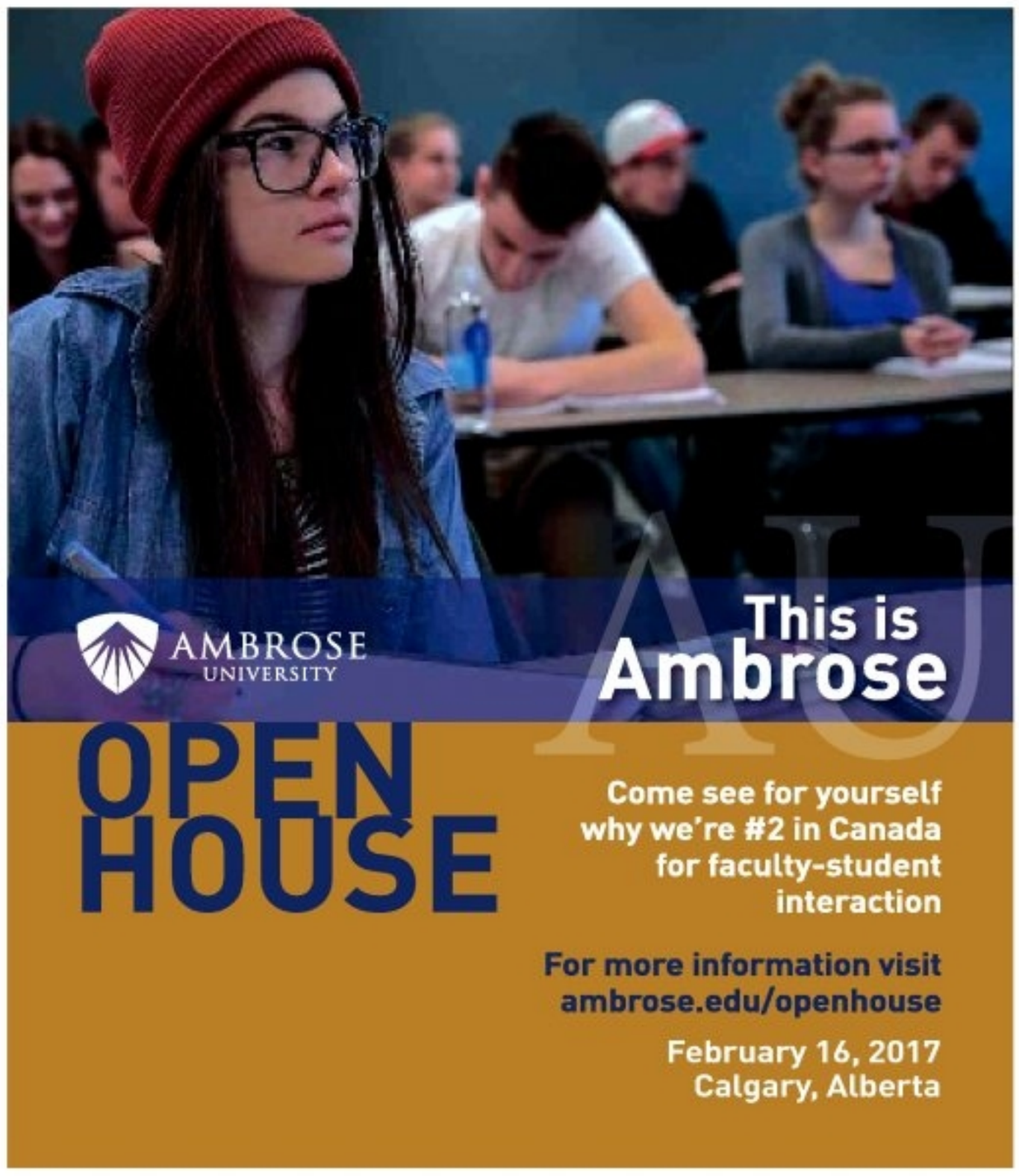
Last week's revelation that Johnny Depp spends $30,000 a month on wine had eyes rolling and palates wagging — especially among those on a boxed wine budget.

Funny thing is, dude knows his juice. A self-proclaimed French wine lover, Captain Sparrow's tastes apparently sway towards the output from Burgundian superstar Domaine de la Romanée-Conti and big named Bordeaux châteaux like Cheval Blanc and Pétrus. They all cost a pirate's ransom, especially from approachable vintages, which means his monthly drinks budget may just equate to a few bottles.

If I had his money I'd buy way more Italian, particularly from Barolo in Italy's northwestern region of Piedmont. While the very best can command retails into the hundreds of dollars, there are plenty of fine examples that, while still pricey, don't require getting an Oscar nomination to afford.

Making wine from the local Nebbiolo grape for over 130 years, Fontanafredda is no Johnny-come-lately. Deceivingly full-bodied, its 2011 Barolo DOCG ($25.95-$36.79) has all the classic black cherry fruit and firm tannins associated with the style.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



ANNIVERSARY

Spread the word: A century of Fluff

Fluff was originally created by a Montreal confectioner. AP PHOTO

Fluff turns 100 this year, and the marshmallow concoction that has been smeared on a century's worth of schoolchildren's sandwiches has inspired a festival and other sticky remembrances.

Every year, between 5 million and 7 million pounds of the sticky cream invented in suburban Boston in 1917 is produced and sold worldwide, although half the supply is bought up by New Englanders and people in upstate New York.

It came of age in the 1960s, when generations of schoolchildren started clamouring for "Fluffernutter" sandwiches — still made by slathering peanut butter and Fluff between two slices of white bread. A fluffy look at its history:

A recipe changes hands

In 1917, Montreal-born confectioner Archibald Query crafted the original recipe in his Somerville home.

Query is said to have whipped up the first batches in his own kitchen before selling it door to door. Following World War I there was a sugar shortage in the U.S., so Query sold the recipe for $500 to two war veterans, H. Allen Durkee and Fred L. Mower.

The recipe has stayed with Durkee Mower Inc. ever since. It's the only product the family-owned company makes.

Still the same stuff

In 1920, Durkee and Mower began producing and selling Fluff, which they first named Toot Sweet Marshmallow Fluff.

The original recipe hasn't changed: corn syrup, sugar syrup, dried egg whites and vanillin. And the jar's packaging is only slightly different, according to Mimi Graney, author of a forthcoming book, Fluff: The Sticky Sweet Story of an American Icon.

What the fluff?

The 12th annual What the Fluff? Festival will be staged this September. It was started as a way to rejuvenate Somerville's now-trendy Union Square neighbourhood. The festival draws about 10,000 people who gather for activities including cooking and eating contests, Fluff jousting, Fluff blowing, a game called Blind Man Fluff, and concerts.

Somerville residents tend to have a soft spot for Fluff. "It totally takes me back to my childhood," says local Amy Hensen.

Fluff in space

U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams, who spent 322 days in space on two missions to the International Space Station, made Fluffernutter sandwiches on board. Williams attended high school in Needham, Massachusetts, so Fluff was a comfort food. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get out of cold and layer up with a creamy lasagne

RECIPE

Rich white and green version will still be real crowd-pleaser

In the quest for Big Crowd Food, lasagna reigns supreme. And at this time of year, you may find yourself entertaining a big crowd for a football game party, for the Oscars or another awards show, or just because it's cold out and it's nice to put together a cozy gathering.

This lasagna is rich and creamy, absent the tomato sauce that anchors many lasagnas, filled with sauteed spinach folded into fluffy ricotta and a very simple bechamel sauce, rich with melty cheeses. The nutmeg is optional — a little can add a nice flavour, but too much can overpower.

Ready in 2 HOURS

This cheesy white and green spinach lasagne is simple to make and oh so satisfying. SARAH CROWDER/AP

Cheesy white and green spinach lasagne

Serves 10 to 12.

Ingredients:

Spinach-Basil-Ricotta Filling

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup minced shallots
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 2 pounds baby spinach leaves, roughly chopped
- 2 pounds ricotta, preferably fresh
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, plus 1/3 cup for sprinkling the top
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil leaves

Bechamel-Cheese Sauce

- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups (1 quart) whole milk
- Pinch ground nutmeg (optional)
- 1 pound fresh mozzarella, shredded
- 8 ounces shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 (8 ounce) package no-boil lasagna noodles (containing 12 noodles)

Directions:

Spinach-Basil-Ricotta Filling

1. Heat the tablespoon butter in a large saucepan over medium heat until melted. Add the shallots and garlic, season with salt and pepper and saute for 2 minutes until tender. Add the spinach in batches and saute, adding more spinach as each batch wilts down, about 6 minutes in all, until all of the spinach is added and wilted.

2. Adjust the seasoning, transfer to a strainer over a bowl, press down with a spoon to release excess liquid, and set aside to cool slightly.

3. In a large bowl combine the ricotta, eggs, 1 cup Parmesan, and the basil. Season with salt and pepper, and set aside.

Bechamel-Cheese Sauce

1. Heat the 4 tablespoons butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat until melted. Whisk in the flour until the mixture turns a light golden colour, about 3 minutes. While whisking constantly, slowly pour in the milk. Continue to cook and whisk until the mixture thickens and bubbles, about 4 minutes, adding the nutmeg, if using. Whisk in the mozzarella and Monterey Jack cheeses until they are melted, and season with salt and pepper.

2. If the spinach still seems wet, give it a squeeze with your hands. Stir the drained spinach into the reserved ricotta mixture.

3. Lay out all of the lasagna noodles on a clean counter top. Spread the spinach-ricotta filling evenly over all of the noodles, so that each is topped with about a 1/2-inch-thick layer of the spinach-ricotta mixture.

4. Pour a small amount of Bechamel Sauce into the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan and spread it out. Place four ricotta-covered noodles in the bottom of the pan to cover it in a single layer. Drizzle 1/3 of the white sauce over the noodles.

5. Place another layer of the ricotta-covered noodles over the top, drizzle with another third of the sauce, and then repeat the layers once more. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan cheese.

6. Bake for about 40 minutes until the top is golden and the lasagna is bubbling. If you want a more browned top, run it under the broiler for 1 or 2 minutes, watching it carefully.

7. Let the lasagna rest for at least 10 to 15 minutes before cutting into squares and serving warm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gossip DIGEST

MUSIC
Gaga's Bowl flows over
The Super Bowl was a triumph for fans of the New England Patriots but it also became very lucrative for Lady Gaga (below). The superstar singer who performed at the halftime show sold about 150,000 digital albums and songs in the U.S. on Sunday, a 1,000 per cent increase over the day before, according to Nielsen Music. Sales of Lady Gaga's songs Born This Way, Bad Romance and Poker Face all spiked. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS
Don-ye bromance over?
Kanye West's friendly relationship with President Donald Trump may have been short-lived. A Twitter defence of West's meeting with Trump has been deleted from the rapper's account. After meeting with the then president-elect at Trump Tower on Dec. 13, West explained that he discussed "multicultural issues" with Trump, including violence in West's hometown of Chicago. Those tweets have now been deleted.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TELEVISION
Rosie ready for SNL skit
On the heels of actress Melissa McCarthy's caustic portrayal of White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer on Saturday Night Live, comedienne Rosie O'Donnell says she's available to play President Donald Trump's controversial adviser Steve Bannon. On her Twitter feed, O'Donnell responded to suggestions that she play Bannon by saying "available — if called I will serve." McCarthy lampooned Spicer last weekend in a sketch where she taunted reporters as "losers," fired a water gun at the press corps and used the lectern to ram a reporter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOKS
Kings team up for Expo
This year's BookExpo will feature a popular father-and-son combination: Stephen and Owen King. Convention organizers ReedPop said that the authors will be featured at a June breakfast in New York promoting Sleeping Beauties, a novel they worked on together. Meanwhile Salman Rushdie's next novel will be a take on the age of Obama, with an added dash of Trump. The author is working on The Golden House, a narrative set against "the panorama" of U.S. life since Barack Obama's arrival at the White House in 2009.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juno high fives for Drake, Mendes and the Weeknd

2017 JUNO AWARDS

Home comfort for global stars as Downie joins front of queue

Shawn Mendes and the Weeknd (inset) are both nominated for album, song and artist of the year awards at this year's Junos. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Global music stars Drake, Shawn Mendes and the Weeknd were celebrated at home Tuesday as they were named the leading nominees heading into this year's Juno Awards, while Gord Downie's work in 2016 could garner a half-dozen trophies.

Downie is nominated for songwriter of the year, best adult alternative album and best video for his multimedia solo project Secret Path, which is also in the running for recording package of the year. His band the Tragically Hip is also up for group of year and rock album of the year honours.

Drake, Mendes and the Weeknd all have five nominations and are contending in marquee categories including best album, best single, artist of the year and the Juno Fan Choice Award. Pop singer Alessia Cara followed closely behind with four nominations, as did the late Leonard Cohen.

A Tribe Called Red, Grimes, Ruth B, Kaytranada, and Tegan and Sara all have three nominations.

Pop singer Coleman Hell said returning to the Junos after being nominated as breakthrough artist last year is encouraging. He's nominated for Summerland in the pop album category this year.

"It feels pretty validating," he said.

"You put so much time into these things and you never know what's going to happen with it, so it's nice to be recognized."

The Strumbellas felt an extra sense of accomplishment with their three Juno nominations, which include group of the year and the fan choice award. They say it was about a year ago when their single Spirits, which is up for single of the year, started its surge into the mainstream.

"We got a Juno nomination early in our career and ... we were so excited at the time," said keyboardist Dave Ritter. "So it's great to be back, nominated again, and to have it cap off what's been a crazy year."

The Juno Awards will be staged at Ottawa's Canadian Tire Centre on April 2 and air on CTV. Among the performers at the show will be Mendes, Cara, the Strumbellas, Ruth B and A Tribe Called Red.

This year's show will also include a tribute to Sarah McLachlan, who is being inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

Michael Buble is still slated to host the show, although his involvement has become uncertain. Buble and his wife, actress Luisana Lopilato, announced in November that they would put their careers on hold to devote attention to their three-year-old son Noah, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

The singer backed out of hosting duties for the Brit Awards last week, although he said in a statement that son Noah is "progressing well" as he undergoes treatment.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEY NOMINEES

Album of the year: You Want It Darker — Leonard Cohen; Encore un Soir — Celine Dion; Views — Drake; Illuminate — Shawn Mendes; Starboy — The Weeknd.
Single of the year: Wild Things — Alessia Cara; One Dance — Drake, ft. Wizkid & Kyla; Treat You Better — Shawn Mendes; Spirits — The Strumbellas; Starboy — The Weeknd, ft. Daft Punk.
Artist of the year: Alessia Cara; Leonard Cohen; Drake; Shawn Mendes; The Weeknd.
Group of the year: Arkells; Billy Talent; The Strumbellas; Tegan and Sara; The Tragically Hip.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Bloody glowers only for Hardy

Tom Hardy as James Delaney in FX's Taboo. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: Taboo, Season 1, Episode 2 (FX)
THE MOMENT: The period filth

The War of 1812 is nearly over. James Delaney (Tom Hardy) has just returned to England after 12 mysterious years in Africa. He has many enemies — as did his late father, who left behind angry creditors.

Delaney and his crooked lawyer Thoyt (Nicholas Woodeson) have called the creditors into a courtroom, where they mob behind the bar. Delaney glowers at them from the front.

"The son does not inherit the debts of the father," Hoyt cries.

Suddenly Delaney stands, opens a leather satchel, and tips its contents onto a table. Coins rain down.

"That is 219 pounds and four shillings," he growls. "My father's debts total 219 pounds and four shillings. So you will be paid. But first you will form an orderly line."

The mob quietens. "But first you will form an orderly line," Delaney repeats, more slowly, but as menacingly as a dragon. The men form a line.

I hope if Hardy ever wins an award for this, the first person he thanks is his makeup artist.

Never has there been a more scrofulous show. Every character, including King George, is perpetually disgusting: Their cheeks are streaked with soot, their knuckles red from punching things. What teeth remain are green or rudely capped with clots of silver. And the tattoos! I hope some of the many on Hardy's body are real, or else he's spending days in makeup chairs.

But man, it's effective. Hardy's glower is scary no matter how it's deployed. But it's really powerful when rimmed with blood and grime.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Crossover packs cargo room

REVIEW

Niro can take on the Prius sedan with fuel efficiency

Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

As the first dedicated hybrid crossover on the market, the Niro occupies a unique space that's barely been tapped by the likes of the hybrid versions of the Toyota RAV4 and the U.S.-exclusive Nissan Rogue. But unlike both of those, which burn only slightly less fuel than their purely gas-powered siblings, the Niro has what it takes to do battle with the Prius sedan at the pumps.

Hybrid crossovers, even front-wheel-drive ones, aren't exactly fuel efficient. That's because they're big, tall and heavy. That's why the 2017 Kia Niro — unlike both gas-electric versions of the RAV4 and Rogue — is built on a platform that was developed specifically for hybrid applications.

Those underpinnings, which are shared with the upcoming Hyundai Ioniq, allow the Niro to be more slight and squat than a traditional crossover. The Niro rides low to the ground in a bid to improve efficiency.

Also helping on the efficiency front is the Niro's powertrain, which, like its platform, is shared with its sister Ioniq sedan. It combines a 1.6-litre gas engine with a small electric motor that works with a rear-mounted battery pack to add electrons to the drive, while power is transferred to the pavement through a six-speed dual clutch automatic transmission.

And this is where the Niro's only major concession comes into play. Unlike the Rogue and RAV4 hybrid models, it's only available with front-wheel drive. This helps the Niro achieve its impressive fuel economy numbers — combined ratings range from 5.5 L/100 km to 4.7 L/100 km depending on trim.

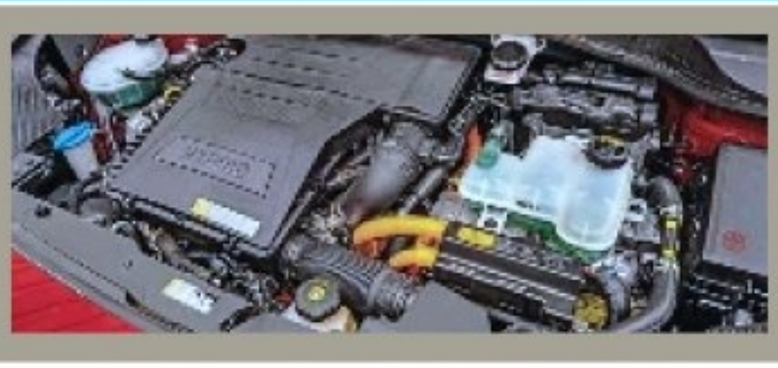
Doing without all-wheel drive has an additional benefit. Engineers were able to mount the Niro's lithium-ion battery pack beneath the rear seats. While most hybrids have their battery packs mounted in the cargo area, doing so cuts into available space.

Cargo room in the Niro sits at a reasonable 549 litres with the second row of seats upright and 1,543 litres with them folded. Making the most out of the available space, the Niro's tailgate opening is nice and wide, while its rear wheel wells barely cut into cargo volume thanks to cleverly packaged rear suspension.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 KIA NIRO

THE BASICS

Engine: 1.6L 4-cylinder, electric motor, 1.56-kWh lithium-ion battery
Transmission: 6-speed automatic
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 4.6 city, 5.1 hwy
Price: Starts at $24,995



LOVE IT
- Incredibly efficient
- Unmatched bang-for-buck

LEAVE IT
- Unremarkable acceleration
- Lack of all-wheel drive

Special delivery: cargo-carrying cars

STINGRAY

Proof of Corvette wagon appears

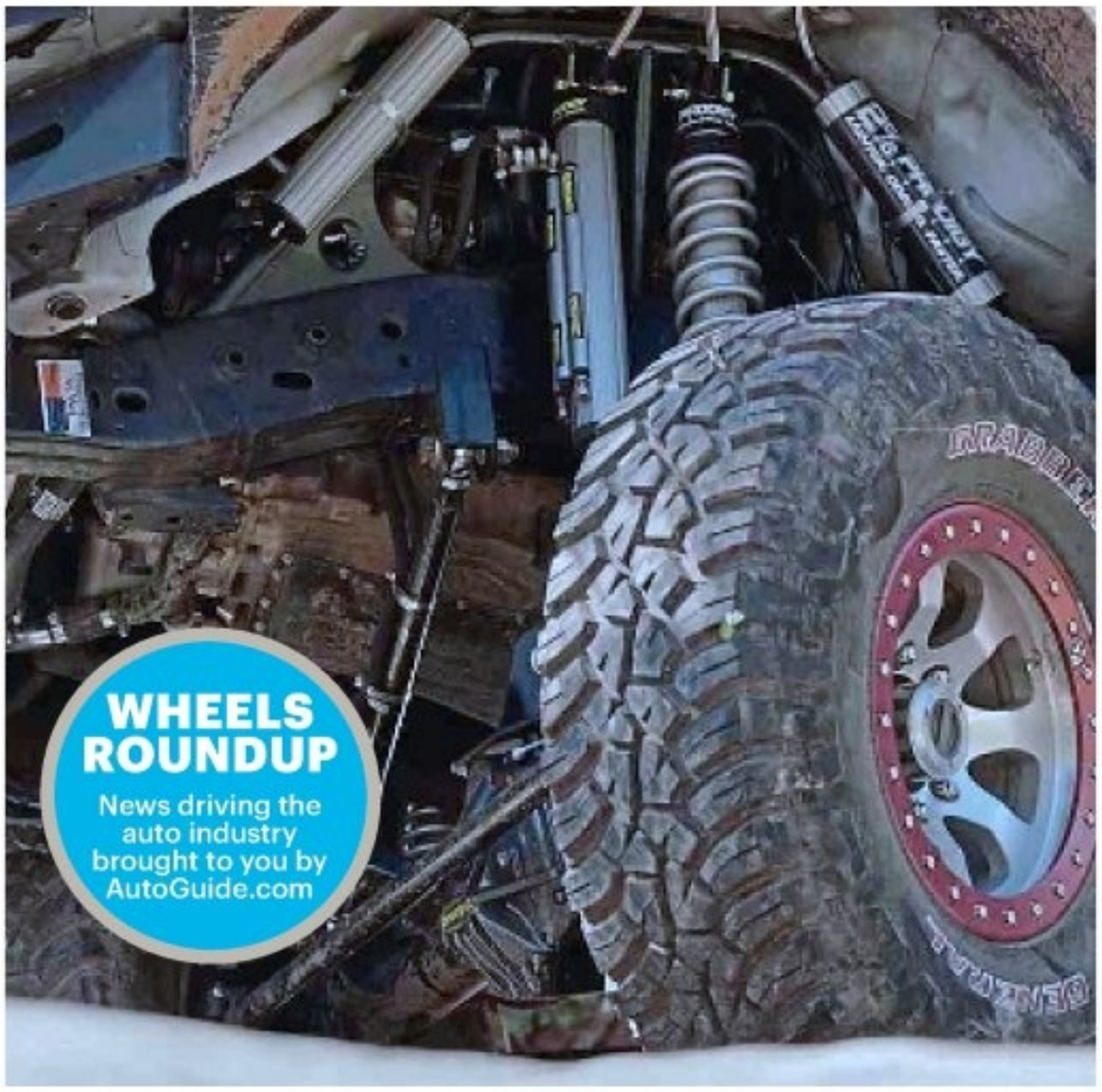
First announced in 2013, it almost seems like Callaway's shooting brake version of the Corvette Stingray would never become reality. But in April 2016, the company confirmed it was heading to production and now there's proof. Pete Callaway, California general manager of Callaway Cars, took to Facebook to share some images of the Chevrolet Corvette AeroWagen in all its glory. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

WHEELS BRIEFS

Station wagon here to stay

Sporting 603 horsepower and 627 pound-feet of torque, the Mercedes-AMG E63 S Wagon is more than just a family hauler.

Wagons may seem to be a dying breed in the U.S., giving way to crossovers and SUVs, but Mercedes-AMG doesn't have any plans of stepping away from the market. The standard E400 4MATIC Wagon is heading to dealers by March and joining it this fall will be the high-performance AMG E63 S variant. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



DELIVERY

Off-road cargo

Nissan is taking deliveries to the next level, making sure that cargo can get anywhere. The NV Cargo X is a project vehicle that debuted 2017 Chicago Auto Show. It stands at over seven-and-a-half feet, sits on 37-inch tires and is powered by a 5.0-liter V8 turbo diesel.

Built in partnership with off-roader Ian Johnson, this van was built to be a rock crawler and its own support vehicle. The suspension is heavily modified to fit the big tires, though the standard leaf spring design is retained in the rear end. A custom LED light system, a 10,000-lb front-mounted winch, a tube bumper and a custom skid plate complete the van's off-road gear.

On the inside, the cargo bay is filled with everything an off-road recovery and support vehicle would carry, including a full-size spare, a recovery rope, recovery tracks, a high-lift jack, portable welder and a tool bag. STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

STARTUP

Faraday Future gets realistic with plans

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Backed by Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting, Faraday Future began its life in the U.S. as a mysterious automaker looking to build really fast electric cars. Then late last year came reports that the company was struggling.

After debuting a radical concept at CES 2016, the company broke ground on a new facility in Las Vegas, promising a massive three-million square foot facility.

The company then went on to preview its first production car, the FF 91 at CES 2017. The all-electric Tesla fighter claims to go zero-to-96 km/h in 2.39 seconds, making it one of the fastest-accelerating cars in the world.

Now, Reuters reports Faraday Future is getting more realistic with its plans. The factory will now be 650,000 square feet and is slated to open in 2019. Faraday Future's initial product portfolio has also been scaled back from seven to two electric vehicles, while it is believed a dozen key U.S. executives have left the company in the last nine months.

Construction of the facility in Las Vegas stopped last fall due to missed payments to contractors and Nevada state officials.

In addition, a number of suppliers and vendors have sued the automaker for non-payment including seat manufacturer Futuris.

Renault Trezor named Most Beautiful Concept Car

INNOVATION

French sure seem to know a thing or two about beauty

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

The stunning Renault Trezor Concept that debuted at last year's Paris Motor Show was just voted as the Most Beautiful Concept Car of 2016 by the Festival Automobile International.

The all-electric grand touring vehicle concept stole the spotlight when it was revealed, and previews technology and design cues that will be used on future models from the French automaker.

One of the main design features was a unique clamshell roof that opened to allow access to the red interior.

Total system output for the Renault Trezor was 350 horsepower and 280 pound-feet of torque, which was able to get the two-seat concept to 100 km/h in under four seconds.

Features from the model will be used in future designs by the French automaker. HANDOUT

"The jury decided this award should go to the Trezor because of the extreme beauty, sensuality, and elegance it exudes," sais Rémi Depoix, president of the Festival Automobile International, in a press release.

"It is the epitome of a concept car and we were notably won over by the cohesion of its overall design and the attention that has been paid to the details.

"It is a fine creative work which, we hope, will inspire Renault's future road-going models."

China's auto influence is growing

TRADE

Chinese tech billionaires investing in U.S. startups

Craig Cole
AutoGuide.com

The Buick Envision proves that high-quality can be synonymous with Made in China. TORSTAR

China has a massive influence on the automotive industry and many are wondering when we will see Chinese cars for sale in North America.

"The Chinese are already here," said Michael Dunne, author, entrepreneur and automotive industry expert with a quarter century of business experience in Asia.

While speaking at a meeting of the Automotive Press Association, Dunne explained that between 2010 and 2016, Chinese firms made some 128 separate investments in North America totaling an estimated $5-billion.

Today, many of these companies supply components to various automakers, help fine tune vehicles that are in development and even work on next-generation technology.

Adopting a similar strategy to the one used by Japanese and South Korean automakers that came before them, Chinese firms are putting heavy emphasis on California. Ambitious startup brands including BYD, Lucid Motors, Karma and Faraday Future, many of which are funded by Chinese tech billionaires, all have a presence in the Golden State.

Dunne said the reason is that the region is a global center for autonomous-vehicle technology, something they want to lead in despite lacking this capability in their home market.

Even though cars and trucks from domestic Chinese automotive brands are not yet available in North America, this country's influence on the industry is undeniable. Dunne said BYD is already building and selling million-dollar electric buses.

Beyond this, the Buick Envision is built in China and imported to North America, something that would have seemed absurd just a few years ago.

And this vehicle is no bottom-feeding economy model, "Nothing about [it] suggests 'Made in China,'" said Dunne. The crossover is suitably premium for its price, proving that the Chinese can build high-quality vehicles. And that could be a key strategy for them going forward.

"I don't see the Chinese coming in with extremely competitive pricing," Dunne said. He doesn't expect them to offer slapdash, bargain-basement vehicles in North America since there's so much work that has to be done in order to sell cars here. They must provide decent quality, have a proper retail network and be able to service their products.

The days of ultra-cheap and unsafe knockoff cars are over — Chinese automakers could be legitimate threats to much more established companies.

But if there's one area where North America and China could come to blows, it's import duties. Today, there are few economic restrictions on selling vehicles in North America, but it's a completely different story on the other side of the Pacific.

"They used to have tariffs that were around 100 per cent," explained Dunne.

While that number has dropped to 25 per cent, Dunne said that when other fees, taxes and surcharges are included, the real-world cost of importing a car or truck into China is about 50 per cent, meaning an American sedan that would sell for $20,000 in San Diego could go for around 30 grand in Shanghai. Because of this, it's been imperative for foreign automakers to build their products in China. But as always, there's a catch.

Dunne said that by allowing foreign companies to sidestep import fees and manufacture domestically the Chinese government forced them to form joint ventures with domestic automakers, each of whom earn 50 percent of all profits. This is why General Motors China is called SAIC-GM; Volkswagen is partnered with FAW, Peugeot-Citroën with Dongfeng and so on; it's never just Ford or Toyota.

Like it or not, the Chinese are already playing a significant role in the North American automotive business. Flush with cash, hungry for technology and willing to take risks, they'll likely continue growing in the foreseeable future.

AMERICAN MADE

F-150 Raptor becomes first in F-series officially sold in China

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

Michigan-made model joins growing list of pickup trucks by American automakers being exported to China. HANDOUT

The American automaker has begun shipping its 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor to customers in China.

This is the first time any U.S.-built F-Series truck has been officially exported to China, joining the Ford GT, Focus RS, Focus ST and Fiesta ST as Ford Performance offerings in the country.

The Ford F-Series pickup truck has been the best-selling vehicle in the U.S. for 35 straight years and now it will start to capture the attention of Chinese customers.

Manufactured in Dearborn, Michigan, the all-new F-150 Raptor is powered by a 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 engine providing 450 horsepower and 510 pound-feet of torque.

Ford isn't the only American automaker exporting pickup trucks to China. Late last year, Chevrolet announced it will export U.S.-built Silverado and Colorado pickups to China starting this year. Forbes reported that Chinese buyers are already paying top-dollar for a record number of Dodge Rams, some of which are entering the country through illicit channels.

"Raptor's unique looks and capability have generated amazing buzz at every auto show we've brought it to around China," said David Schoch, Ford group vice president and president, Ford Asia Pacific.

"F-150 Raptor is another example of our commitment to offer a wide range of vehicles for customers in China – everything from SUVs to high-performance cars and trucks."

metro SPORTS

The Calgary Stampeders will travel to Ottawa for a Grey Cup rematch in June 23's season opener

Flames smoke out Pens

NHL

Johnson keeps Crosby from reaching points milestone

Sidney Crosby's pursuit for 1,000 career points hit a speed bump — not to mention a couple of posts — against Calgary's Chad Johnson.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain picked up point No. 998 with a third-period assist, but Johnson and the Flames recovered after blowing a two-goal lead for a 3-2 shootout victory on Tuesday night.

Johnson stopped 31 shots, including three from Crosby, and then turned away Crosby and Phil Kessel in the shootout as the Flames picked up two valuable points in the crowded chase for one of the final playoff spots in the wide-open Western Conference.

Kris Versteeg scored the only goal in the shootout, a beautiful deke that left Pittsburgh's Matt Murray sprawled badly out of position.

"Sometimes you close your eyes and it goes in," Versteeg said. "So, I was lucky there."

Michael Frolik scored his 13th goal of the season for the Flames and Micheal Ferland added his eighth. It was Johnson, however, who did the heavy lifting. He stopped Crosby on the doorstep in the second period and again in the shootout as the Flames won for the fourth time in their last five games.

"You're just kind of in the moment," Johnson said.

"I try not to worry too much who I'm going against. You just try to be in position and be patient."

Crosby inched closer to becoming the 86th player in NHL history to reach 1,000 points when he set up Chris Kunitz's third-period goal for career point No. 998. Rookie forward Jake Guentzel forced overtime with his fifth of the season with just under five minutes remaining. Murray made 28 saves but had no chance on Versteeg's beautiful deke in the shootout.

"We gave them their opportunities," Crosby said. "I think we had more than enough chances to win the game. I think we deserved better tonight. Got back into it, but I thought by far we had the better scoring chances."

Crosby's next shot at joining the exclusive club is Thursday in Colorado. The 29-year-old two-time MVP, whose 30 goals this season lead the league, has gained an appreciation for his impending milestone but also wants to get it over with so the focus can shift back to the Penguins chasing down Metropolitan Division-leading Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sidney Crosby of the Penguins works the puck from behind the Flames goal against defenceman Mark Giordano and goalie Chad Johnson on Tuesday night. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUESDAY in Pittsburgh

3	2
FLAMES	PENGUINS

NHL

Julien fired by Bruins

The Bruins felt they needed a change at the top, even if it meant doing it on a day when the city was celebrating a championship.

Boston fired Stanley Cup-winning coach Claude Julien on Tuesday, just hours before a downtown parade in honour of the New England Patriots' Super Bowl victory.

Claude Julien GETTY IMAGES

General manager Don Sweeney apologized for the timing, but said the team's two-day break between games provided time to recover from the emotions of Julien's dismissal. He said he wasn't oblivious of the optics, but added, "I'm not going to make a decision just based on that."

With the team in danger of missing the playoffs for a third straight season, Sweeney felt he had little choice. Boston has lost two in a row and six of nine and fallen out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Assistant Bruce Cassidy was named interim coach.

> **At the end of the day it falls back on the players. We're not the ones that are executing on the ice.**
> Brad Marchand

"I had come to a conclusion that in moving this group forward with an eye toward the plans that have been put in place, that I wasn't willing to commit to a longer term basis with Claude," Sweeney said.

He also said there is time before the March 1 trade deadline to make adjustments that could get the Bruins in position to make the playoffs.

"There's no question I think this group has a chance to get in," Sweeney said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL PATRIOTS BRING THE PARTY TO THE STREETS
New England Patriots, from left, free safety Devin McCourty, quarterback Tom Brady and head coach Bill Belichick hoist Super Bowl trophies during a rally Tuesday in Boston to celebrate Sunday's win over the Atlanta Falcons. Hundreds of thousands of fans lined the parade route and endured snow and rain to fete the Pats for winning their fifth NFL championship.
BARRY CHIN/POOL/THE BOSTON GLOBE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ban may keep Russia out of track and field worlds

Russian athletics looked set for conflict with the IAAF over doping even as the government admitted on Tuesday some top coaches relied on giving banned substances to their athletes.

The IAAF on Monday said Russia would probably not be reinstated to global athletics until at least November, meaning there won't be an official Russia team at the world championships in August.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

Canada scores win over Venezuela

Canada defeated Venezuela 2-1 in the round-robin opener at the Fed Cup Americas Zone Group I event on Tuesday.

Charlotte Robillard-Millette of Blainville, Que., dropped a 6-3, 6-4 decision to Adriana Perez in the opening match before Bianca Vanessa Andreescu of Mississauga, Ont., pulled Canada even with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Andrea Gamiz.

Andreescu and Robillard-Millette teamed up to beat Gamiz and Perez 6-3, 6-1 in the decisive doubles match.

Canada lost in the first round of World Group II play against Belarus last year and then fell to Slovakia in a World Group II playoff. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AT STAKE

The winner of the nine-team event will advance to the World Group II playoffs in April.

Drouin's decathlon leap

ATHLETICS

Gold-medal high jumper to take on multi-event challenge

Derek Drouin may be one of the world's greatest high jumpers, but he's a multi-event athlete at heart. And so while he was soaring to world and Olympic high-jump gold, the 26-year-old from Corunna, Ont., never strayed far from his other love.

He's drawn more than a few quizzical looks for it.

"There's a lot of times we go to these track meets and he's doing long jump training, or hurdling, or running a 1,500 (metre) workout, and people are like 'What in the hell is he doing?'" said coach Jeff Huntoon. "I just kind of sit back and smile. And I imagine he's doing the same thing."

Drouin has won virtually every high jump title there is, including Commonwealth and Pan American Games gold. So while this season his goal is to clinch a second high jump title at the world championships in London, he also plans to compete in a few decathlons. The ultimate goal: a spot on next year's Commonwealth Games team.

"It's to get back to what I was doing in college, which was really when I was most confident competing, I kind of felt my strongest, felt like I was in my best physical shape, and I just have a whole lot of fun doing that," Drouin said.

"I was always a pretty strong hurdler in college. I really love throwing javelin. I was always competitive in multis in college and I loved it."

Huntoon actually recruited Drouin out of high school to the Indiana Hoosiers as a multi-event athlete, but Drouin progressed more quickly in the high jump than the decathlon's other nine events.

When Drouin and Huntoon, who was hired away from Indiana by Athletics Canada in 2015, sat down to map out a four-year plan, switching their focus to the decathlon after the Rio Olympics was on their to-do list for this season.

"And so here we are," Huntoon said.

Drouin is competing in a high jump meet in Slovakia on Wednesday, then is one of the headliners in the prestigious Millrose Games on Saturday in New York City. Then he'll take a brief break before attending a multi-events camp in Australia, to prepare him for a decathlon in Santa Barbara in early April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's something I really haven't done in a while, but I'm very excited to get back into that.
Derek Drouin on his renewed interest in competing in the decathlon

JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PYEONGCHANG 2018

Winter Games a year away

Athletes hoping to wear the Maple Leaf at the 2018 Winter Olympics have one year to secure a spot on the Canadian team and hone their performance for a shot at a medal.

"It's definitely on my mind pretty much daily, trying to figure out where you want to be come that day," snowboarder Spencer O'Brien said. "It's pretty crazy to put four years into something and relatively for us, it's four years for 30 seconds."

The 23rd Winter Olympics open Feb. 9, 2018, in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and close 16 days later.

Those who run Canadian sport haven't yet stated a goal for 2018 after making No. 1 in the overall medal count the target in 2010 and 2014.

Own The Podium CEO Anne Merklinger said Canadian performances at worlds in the coming weeks will help decide the medal goal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUPER G

Kenyan skier Simader has sights set on South Korea

Kenyan skier Sabrina Simader's ambitious path to the 2018 Olympic downhill went through St. Moritz on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old Simader was the only African starter in the women's super-G race at the world ski championships.

She placed last of 39 finishers, more than eight seconds behind champion Nicole Schmidhofer of Austria.

Still, one month after her World Cup debut in Slovenia — and one year after her four-race Winter Youth Olympics program in Norway — it's a key stage in Simader's route to earning her place in the Olympic line-up next year in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

The Austrian-based teenager's quest is unusual because few racers outside traditional Alpine teams qualify in the more challenging speed events of downhill and super-G. Simader races all disciplines and plans to have a busy program at the two-week worlds in the high-end Swiss resort. "It's really emotional. I enjoyed it," she said after completing the race to loud cheers from the Swiss crowd and her fan club from Austria waving several Kenyan flags. "The weather is nice, the slope was cool. I hope I will be faster next time."

Sabrina Simader
GETTY IMAGES

Simader's exuberance was matched by her mother Sarah in the finish area, who trained a camera on the giant screen broadcasting the second half of a 90-second run down the 1.95-kilometre course. Born in Kenya, Sabrina Simader came with her mother to Austria and began skiing when she was 3. Her stepfather, Josef, runs a ski lift in Hansberg.

"When she turned 13 she won a local championship," Simader's advisor, Armin Kolb, told the AP. "She went to Schladming to ski school with other Austrian racers and really learned ski racing."

Simader has scored top-10 finishes in downhill and slalom events at the third-tier FIS (International Ski Federation) race level. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Easy Mini Turkey Meatloaves

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Double this recipe so you've got a few meatloaves to go in the freezer. That's how much you're going to love them.

Ready in 1 hour
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 glug of olive oil
- 1/3 cup onion, diced on the fine side
- 1/3 cup celery, diced small
- 1/3 cup carrot, peeled, diced small
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 1/2 cup of rolled oats
- 1 1/2 pound of ground turkey
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup Parmesan, grated
- 2 Tbsp ketchup
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Warm olive oil in pan over medium heat. Add vegetables and the fennel seeds and allow to soften, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool a bit.

2. In a large mixing bowl, combine meat, oats, ketchup, sautéed vegetables, cheese and egg. Mix with clean hands or a fork. Use a 1/3 cup measure to scoop mixture and put it in muffin tin.

3. In a small bowl, mix 2 Tbsp of ketchup and 1 tsp of Worcestershire sauce. Use a small spoon to smear glaze over mini meatloaves. Pop in oven 40 minutes. The internal temperature for meatloaf should be 160 to 165 degrees F.

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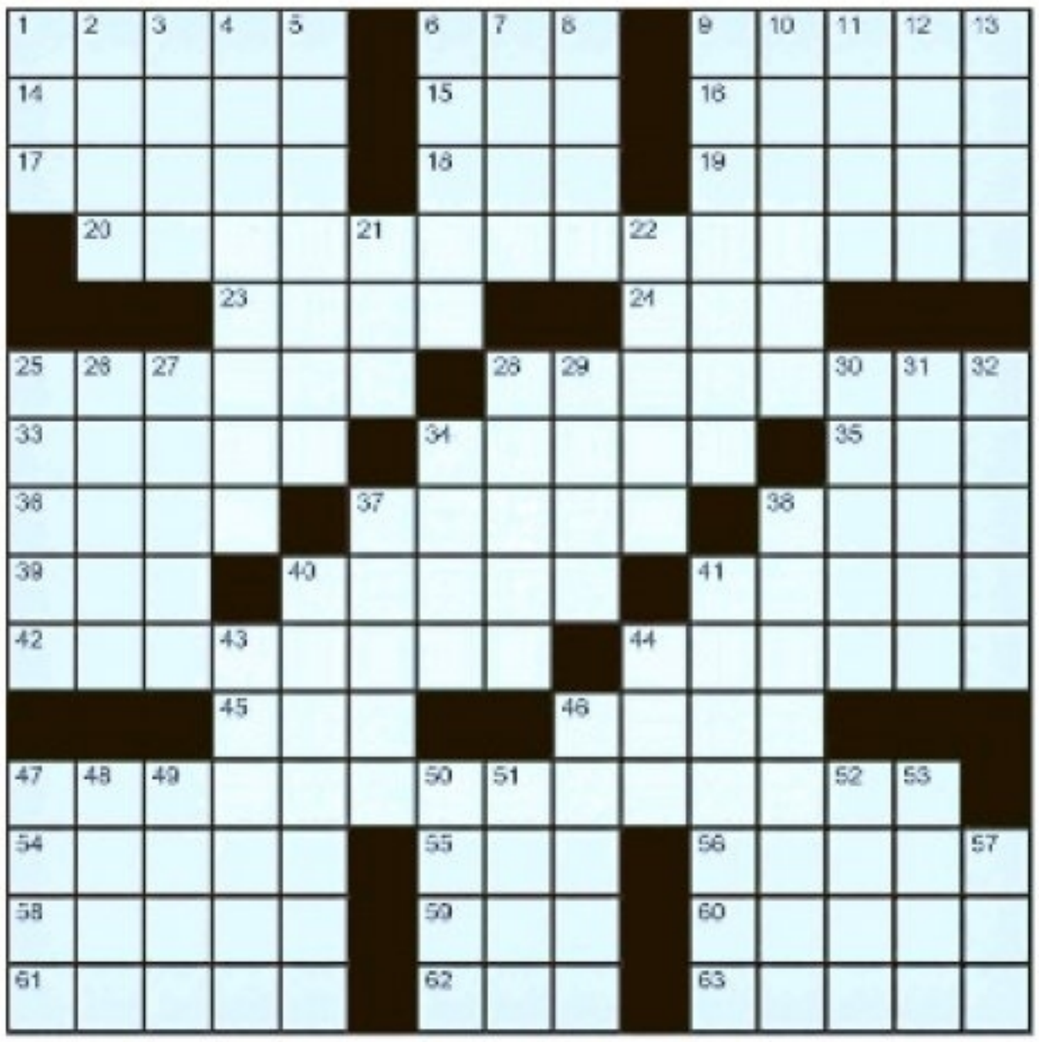
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Up to now: 2 wds.
6. Electrical resistance unit
9. Thanks, in Munich
14. Exonerate
15. Hawaiian dish
16. Ms. Verdugo of "Marcus Welby, M.D."
17. Aquarium fish
18. Strong-__
19. "Robert De __ Waiting..." by Bananarama
20. Whitehorse aka 'The __ __'
23. Money owed
24. Business: Co., in French
25. Soak up
28. "The Social" on CTV, for example: 2 wds.
33. Wanders
34. Crocheter's creation
35. Latin roe
36. Auberges
37. Actress, Lauren __
38. Drama king Sir Coward
39. Manchester, __.
40. Serf of Sparta
41. Close-knit unit
42. Captain Cook, for one
44. Believes
45. Blood-typing letters
46. 2003 Samuel L. Jackson/Colin Farrell m.o.v.i.e.
47. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Labrador: Red Bay Basque __ __ (Where 16th-century mariners from the Pyrenees region of France/Spain hunted Rights and Bowheads to supply oil, such as for lamps, to Europe)
54. English Channel sight, Isle of __
55. Cacharel perfume
56. Mythological blood
58. "__ __ helicopter!" (Stranded-on-the-mountain exclamation)
59. Totally
60. Gullible
61. Sluggish
62. Head-to-__
63. Crow

DOWN
1. Do
2. Batch
3. Fabled snowy creature
4. Peerage realms
5. Stock switchers
6. '60s abstractionism: 2 wds.
7. "Come Blow Your __" (1963) starring Frank Sinatra
8. Street performer
9. Concentration
10. Restaurant where you can get anything you want in the Arlo Guthrie tune
11. Italian saint, Philip __
12. Combing problem
13. Simple
21. Wane in the waters
22. Like a fish's outers
25. Horoscope sign
26. __ Bay, Newfoundland
27. __ __ song (Did what vocalists do)
28. "Blue Ain't Your __" by Keith Urban
29. To the __ (Fully)
30. Parka parts
31. Blatant
32. United Kingdom country
34. Bananas brand
37. Wading bird
38. Tragically Hip's "__ Disaster"
40. __ for Humanity
41. Packing the goods for a cargo shipment
43. 'Honey Capital of Canada' town in Alberta
44. Ex-airline
46. Croutons-making ingredient, __ bread
47. Allies vs. Axis arena [abbr.]
48. __ '__' Hers
49. American writer James
50. Irritating fly
51. Alone
52. Cincinnati's state
53. 'N' of NS
57. __. General

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is the second day in a row where things are volatile at home or with spouses and partners. Do what you can to keep the peace, because tomorrow is a much easier day.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Something will create detours and delays in your daily routine today. Therefore, allow extra time for everything so that you have wiggle room for dealing with the unexpected.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something unexpected will affect your cash flow or finances today. You might find money, or you might lose money. Guard your possessions against loss or theft.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Once again, the Moon is in your sign, at odds with another planet! You are too impulsive and trigger-happy. Just calm down and do not overreact, especially when talking to bosses.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a restless day for you. Because of this, you could make an error in judgment. You also might say something you'll later regret. Be cool — who wants egg on his or her face?

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
During discussions with friends or groups, something regarding shared property might blow you out of the water. Do not be hasty; do not shoot from the hip. Think before you speak.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Once again, your relations with parents and bosses are subject to surprises and interruptions. These interruptions might even include arguments. Don't say anything you will regret.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Travel plans will be interrupted, delayed or changed today. Likewise, school schedules, especially for colleges, universities and technical schools, might be unreliable.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Double-check your bank accounts and anything to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might throw you for a loop.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
People are impulsive and emotional today, which is why you have to maintain your cool. Avoid arguments with family members, partners and spouses.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Equipment breakdowns, computer glitches and interruptions to your work routine will be frustrating today. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Parents should be vigilant about their kids, because this is an accident-prone day. Likewise, social events and anything related to sports might have sudden changes.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	1	9	6		5	7	3	
	3		9		4		2	
			5		8			
4								8

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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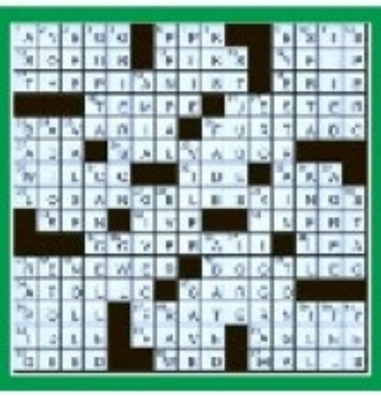

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3	9	7	6	1	2	5	8	4
1	2	4	3	8	5	6	9	7
5	6	8	4	7	9	1	3	2
4	8	9	5	2	6	7	1	3
7	3	6	9	4	1	2	5	8
2	5	1	7	3	8	4	6	9

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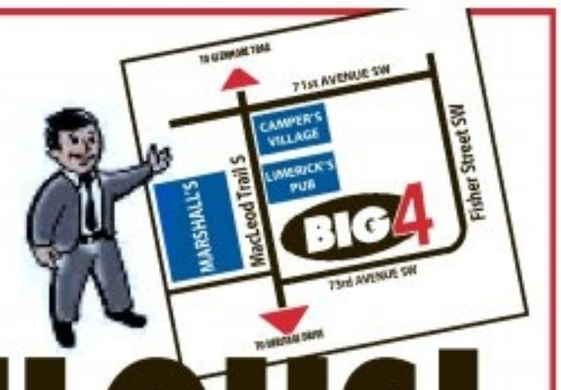

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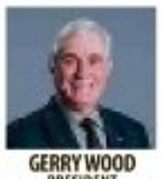

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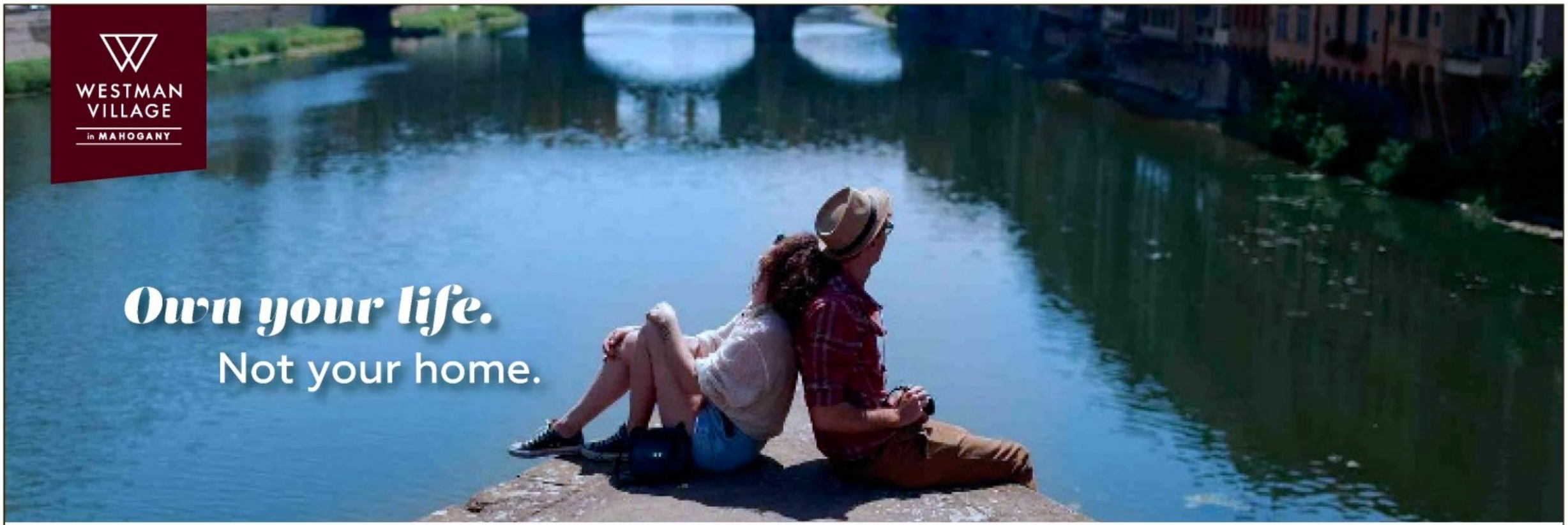

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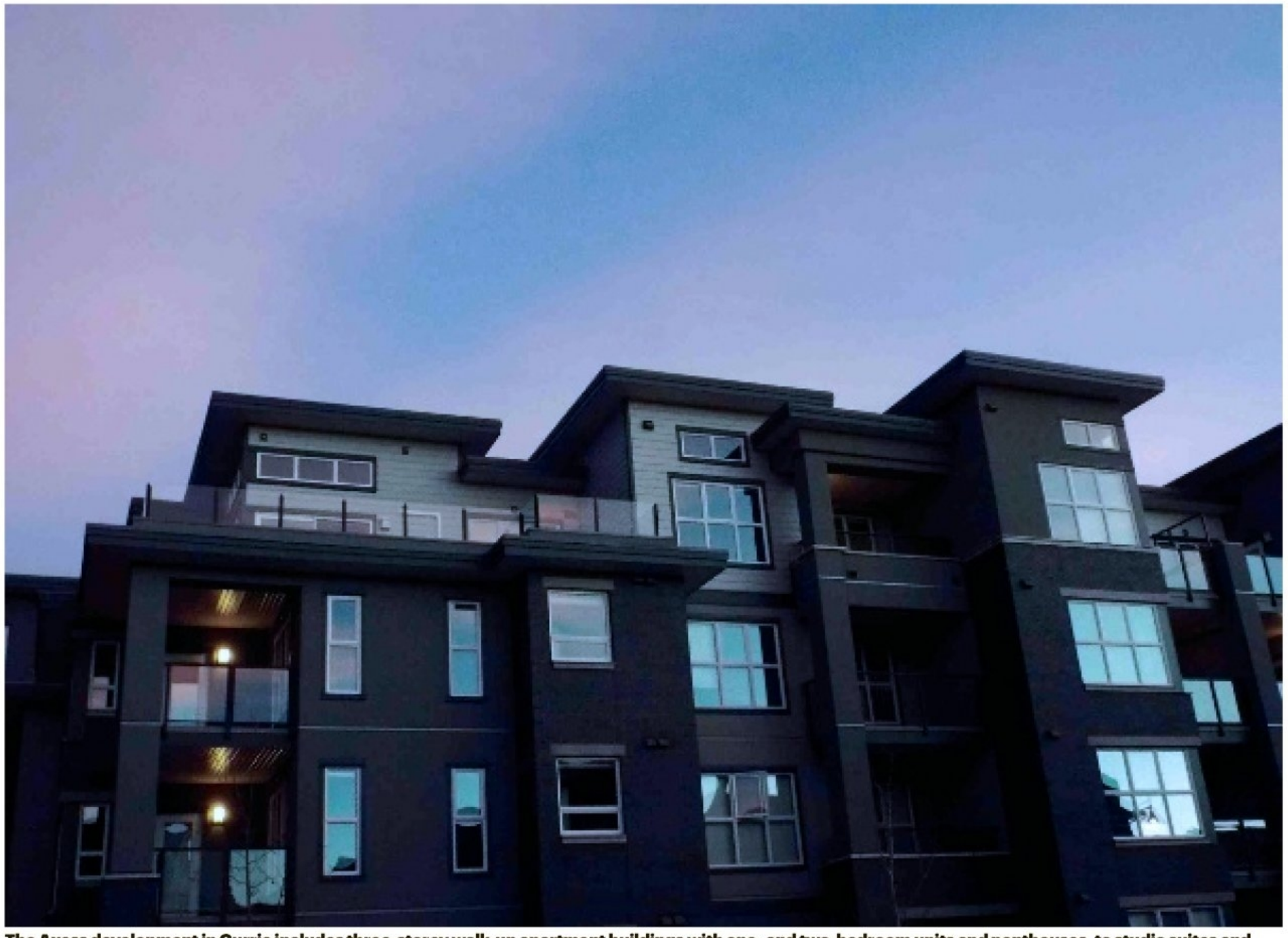

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Kathy McCormick

When Canadian Forces Base Calgary closed down in the late 1990s, it was a sad day to see our beloved troops moving, but it opened up an incredible opportunity to redevelop the land that sits in a prime inner city location.

It is today a remarkable unique, sustainable and environmentally-conscious community that honours our military and their commitment to making life in Canada better. The community is one of the most sought after neighbourhoods for people with its true modern urbanism mixing with the heritage of the area — and builders have embraced the concept creating unique heritage-styled homes that are leading edge contemporary at the same time — and in all different market segments.

Axess condominiums are one such example.

The Slokker-Canada development consists of multi-family homes to fit any lifestyle, from three-storey walk-up apartment buildings with one- and two-bedroom units and penthouses, to studio suites and two-storey townhomes.

The apartment units range in size from 663 square feet

The foyer at Axess offers an introduction to the design details that can be found throughout the multi-family condominium development. KATHY MCCORMICK

to 1,000 square feet.

The show suite is Plan D — the largest of the units. It has two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

From the entrance in the hall, the home opens to the kitchen. To the right, you're led to the coat closet and another closet on the other side holding the stacked washer and dryer, then a door to the bathroom. This, in turn, leads into the second bedroom — a good size with a large window to let in the light.

Back to the entry, you're led directly into the heart of the home — the open kitchen, nook and living room, which separate the two bedrooms, allowing for more privacy. The kitchen includes a flush eating bar and a perfect work triangle of sink, stove and fridge allowing for fewer steps and efficient cooking.

Everything in the show suite is standard, including the appealing quartz countertops and the glossy, lacquered white cabinets to the ceiling with LED under-cabinet lighting to make it even brighter. The appliances are all stainless steel, including a gas-burner stove.

The living room has a large window and a door leading to the outside patio. Nine-foot ceilings throughout the living areas add to the spacious feeling throughout.

The master suite is a good size with a large picture window as well as two vertical windows on each side of the bed. The area includes a walk-in closet and full ensuite with double sinks in the long vanity and a soaker tub with attached shower with glass sides.

Wide-plank flooring is in the main living area and porcelain tile in the entry, baths and laundry space.

The homes all come with a secured and titled underground parking stall (the townhomes have two spaces).

Outside, the buildings fit well with the surrounding neighbourhood with a contemporary feel with distinct detail and contrasting, yet complementary colour scheme throughout. Inside, the foyer is huge with stand-out design details that provide a pleasing first impression of life at Axess.

IN SHORT

Builder: Slokker-West

Developer: Canada Lands Company

Area: Currie in SW inner city

Project: Axess multi-family development with walk-up apartment units, studios and townhomes.

Prices:

- Apartment units (from one bedroom, one bath to two beds and two baths with sizes from 663 square feet to 1,000 square feet) are from $440,000 to $475,000 plus GST;
- Studio units of 536 to 541 square feet are $238,000 to $245,000 plus GST;
- Townhomes of 1,268 square feet to 1,278 square feet are $550,000 to $599,000 plus GST;
- Penthouses of 1,251 square feet are $700,000 to $750,000 plus GST.

Directions: Take Crowchild Trail south to 33 Avenue S.W. turn right, then left at Sarcee Road, then left again at Burma Star Road and follow the signs.

Hours: Open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m., weekends and holidays.

Okotoks is A-OK with commuters

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Just 35 minutes from city centre, small town attracts buyers

Karen Durrie

The picturesque enclave of Okotoks, nestled into the foothills southwest of Calgary, has been rolling along like the foothills that surround it over the past decade.

Between 2006 and 2011, the town experienced a 42.9 per cent population growth spurt, and according to 2015 census data, 28,016 people now call the bedroom community home.

With growth comes new residential development, and many people who work in Calgary have chosen to make the quick commute — about 15 minutes to the south end of the city; 35 minutes to city centre — in exchange for the cheerful, small-town atmosphere and quieter country living.

There are a number of new neighbourhoods underway around Okotoks, from affordable to luxury estate levels, many showcasing expansive mountain views and the woodsy wandering of the Sheep River bubbling nearby.

Here is a look at some of the newest neighbourhoods in Okotoks.

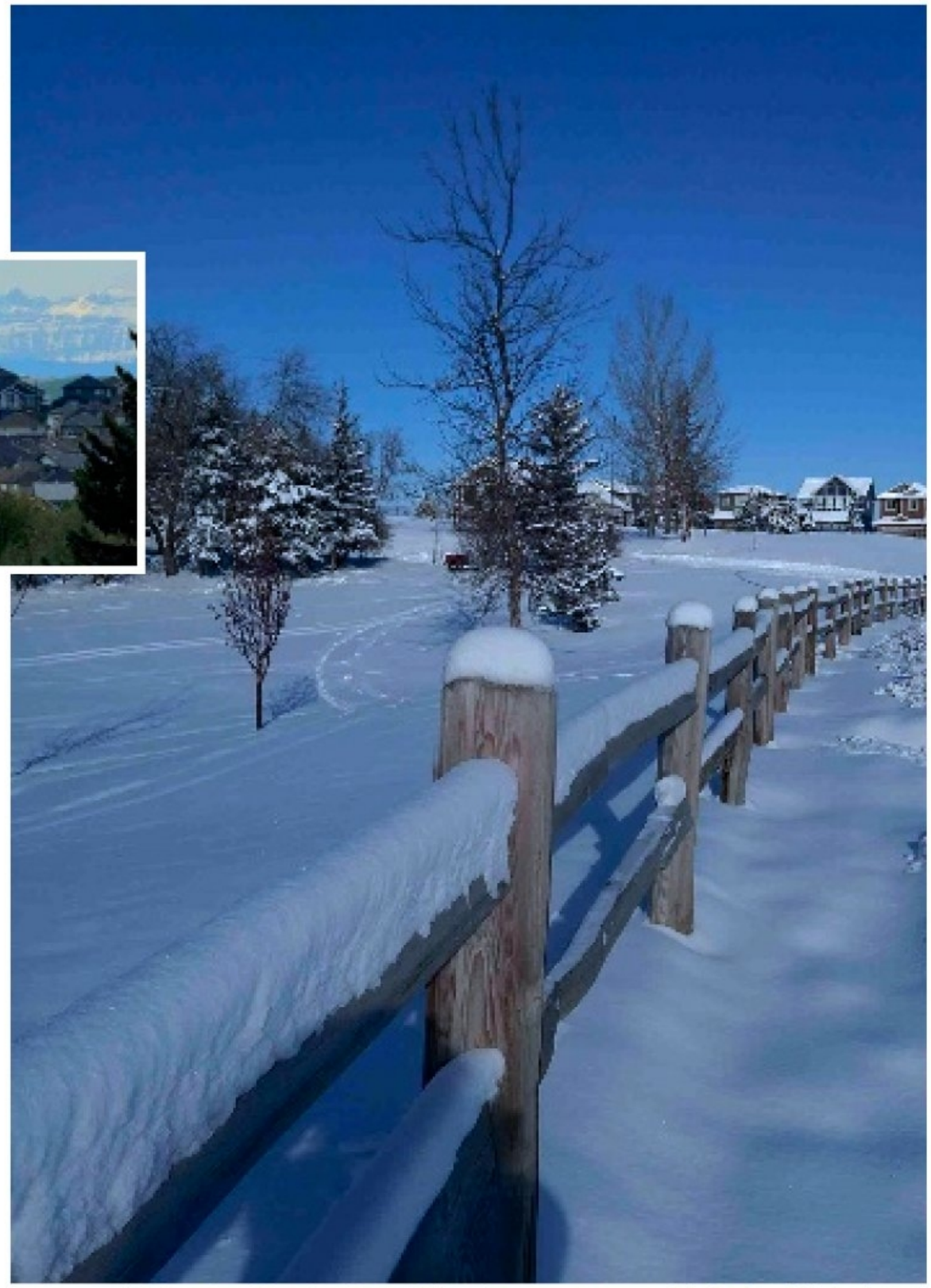
• Rancher's Rise is part of Okotoks Air Ranch, set near the town's historic airstrip. Managing developer is Bordeaux Developments, and builders include Broadview Homes, Baywest Homes and Sterling Homes. The area features green spaces, wetlands and nature trails. The latest phase of the development, Rancher's Rise homes start in the low $500s.

• Green Haven Estates on the southeast border of Okotoks offers large lots and custom estate building with Westridge Fine Homes, Timber Creek Homes and Brycor Homes. Green building practices and sustainable materials feature in the construction. An escarpment, ravines, and ponds highlight the area's natural beauty.

• Mountainview is a haven for nature lovers, with 35 acres of environmental reserve featuring a creek, old-growth trees, wetlands and an escarpment with ridge pathways and expansive mountain views. In the northwest part of Okotoks, Mountainview is an Apex community, with Excel Homes and Sterling Homes showcasing traditional masonry and woodwork styles.

• Westmount Estates overlooks Okotoks from its highest point on the south side, with mountain views to the west, and features one-quarter and one-third-acre estate lots for the move-up and multi-generational market. Developer is Prominence Development Corporation, and it features the craftsmanship of numerous custom builders, including Cornerstone Luxury Homes, Country Rose Homes and Woodmaster Homes.

• Sheep River Cove by Dream West Homes features park and hillside lots, with the final phase of lots backing onto environmental reserve. Located on the west side of Okotoks, a stone's throw from the winding Sheep River, Dream West is the exclusive builder, and offers numerous in-house plans, or the option to custom design.



A newer neighbourhood in Okotoks; and the picturesque town with the foothills in the distance (inset). KAREN DURRIE; CONTRIBUTED

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When you're itchin' for a tidy kitchen

Of all the rooms in the house, the kitchen is the most complicated with the sheer amount of things it contains. Appliances, food, gadgets, containers, utensils, plates, cups, trash cans, recycling, cookbooks, decor items — it's just a relentless soup of 'stuff.' Here are some ways to corral kitchen clutter and make the most of your space

Karen Durrie

Get on board

Counter space, counter space, our kingdom for more counter space! If there's only room for one cook in your kitchen, a little extra prep area is always welcome. Plunk the Squish cutting board with its inset colander over the sink, and you've got more room for chopping, rinsing and draining — and to put someone else to work on meal prep. The collapsible colander makes for easy storage, too. Green version available online only. Grey/black version online and instore at Bed, Bath and Beyond for $39.99.

Stack 'em

Small cupboards, tall shelves? Make the most of your wasted space by using organizers inside the cupboards. Find accessories to place your plates on end, stack them up high on tiered wire shelves, find stepped shelves to store spices in a way you can see them all, and source bakeware holders that contain your stacks of sheet pans and pizza stones. This sturdy little chrome corner shelf helps maximize space and reduce damage from overstacking. $14.99 at Canadian Tire.

Hang on

Pantries can be a nightmare, especially if you don't have the luxury of a big, walk-in one where you can find everything at a glance. Adding some organizational tools is where it's at. Use baskets, stacking racks, bamboo boxes, and maximize a pantry door with a hanging rack. Store preserves, teas, storage containers, spices and more in this six-tier over-the-door organizer by Household Essentials. Comes in three poppy colours — red, green and orange — for $39.99 on Amazon.ca.

Go vertical

Sometimes there's just not enough cupboard space, or practical-minded builders didn't bother with any little peek-a-boo display space to showcase your cool crockery or cookbook collection. If you've got the room, add a good-sized shelf. Even larger ones have small footprints — it's mostly vertical space we're talking about here. We like this Chicago bookcase for its unique, off-kilter design with open and closed-back spaces that provide nice backgrounds for showing off beautiful bowls, stacks of books, china tea cups and baskets of linens. $659 (regularly $999) at Structube.

Sharp idea

A place to put your knifes where they won't be dulled by constantly going into a space-sucking wood block, or getting rattled around in a kitchen drawer, is — on the wall. Consider installing a magnetic knife strip to place them within easy reach and clear up space on your counters and in your drawers. Makes the right knives easier to find at a glance, too. Try this 14.5" long, easy-to-install magnet from Think Kitchen, from Stokes, on sale for $11.98, regularly $19.99.

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New energy compliance building codes cover everything from construction methods to materials. ISTOCK

New homes see higher standard of green

ENERGY EFFICIENT

New building codes means a new level of eco-friendly construction

Karen Durrie

With revised energy compliance building codes launched in November, new homes will see a higher standard of green construction than ever before.

Some builders have already meeting the new codes for many years under Built Green Canada, a third-party certification program whose checklist covers everything from construction methods to materials, and features different levels of certification from bronze to platinum ratings.

Jayman Built has been building Built Green certified homes since 2005, typically reaching silver and gold certification ratings on each home. Platinum is harder to achieve unless you're doing a custom build, says Dave Krasman, director of corporate purchasing.

"A year ago, we really fine-tuned the core of our homes. We already had the triple-pane windows, but now we have high-efficiency furnaces, tankless water heaters and (water) recirculation lines, along with heat recovery ventilators that help with ventilation and fresh air, as well as a really good insulation system that is tightly sealed," Krasman says.

Besides those energy-saving features, Built Green certification criteria includes low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints, LED lighting, recycled materials — for example concrete, carpeting and flooring that contains a percentage of recycled content — and use of sustainable materials also ticks Built Green boxes.

Construction methods and practices that reduce a builder's carbon footprint also count — freight distances, wind energy use and fleet makeup — number of hybrids, for example.

Krasman says that though Jayman has touted Built Green for many years, they found it a tough sell for people who expressed a high value for green and energy efficient practices if already built into homes, but didn't want to have to pay extra for them.

"November 16th, the game changed for Albertans, and we've been meeting that code for years. But now everybody needs to meet the criteria, so it's leveled the playing field. All the people that didn't want to be part of Built Green because it would cost them money — well the new code is like Built Green bronze."

Consumers, he points out, will ultimately find savings in new homes, especially in light of the carbon levy program, which provides monetary incentives for people who take steps to lower their emissions.

All Built Green homes are performance tested and also receive a rating from Natural Resources Canada's EnerGuide label, as well as a Built Green rating, says Lance Floer, president and CEO of Excel Homes, which has registered all its homes Built Green since 2007. Floer is also past chairman of Built Green Canada, and is actively involved with its board.

"Built Green homes are cheaper to operate and use less energy, but the attention to detail by default means it ends up being a higher quality home. An axiom in the business is that it's very hard to build a poor-quality Built Green home, because of the things you have to do," Floer says.

"Even how the hardwood is sourced matters. We aren't using exotic, at-risk species or subject to poor forestry management practices," Floer says. The bulk of hardwood Excel uses is domestic or engineered wood flooring, uses recycled materials as a substrate beneath laminated veneer.

Built Green homes are also consistently appraised higher, Floer says, which bodes well for a home's resale value.

For more information on Built Green builders check out builtgreencanada.ca/alberta.

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Westman Village: 'There's nothing like it'

JAYMAN BUILT

Designed as a community within a community

Kathy McCormick

Different ownership options to choose from — rental, full-on ownership, life leases through condos, estate bungalow-styled units, rental apartments, and adult living. CONTRIBUTED

It's no surprise the latest village set in the heart of one of Calgary's newer communities is named after the father-son partnership who founded Jayman BUILT, a large-volume building company in Alberta.

When Al and Jay Westman started what was then known as Jayman Homes in 1980, the drive, dedication, passion, and creativity of the two made it an instant success. The company continued to grow and flourish, attracting homebuyers with its extensive selection of unique floorplans, its customer service and its innovations.

That has been personified in its latest venture in partnership with Edmonton's Christenson Developments Ltd. - Westman Village in Mahogany.

"Westman Village is totally unique here," says Jay, chairman of the Jayman Group of Companies. "It's like Disneyland; there's nothing like it."

Bubbling with unbridled enthusiasm, Westman says the small village concept includes something for everyone, including more than several different ownership options to choose from — rental, full-on ownership, life leases through condos, estate bungalow-styled units, rental apartments, and adult living. Add on retail, restaurants and even a hotel. A 35,000-square-foot amenity centre is at the heart of the community now under construction- and there is so much more.

"This is a preferred lifestyle people in Europe have — and it's something everyone aspires to here," Westman says. "It truly is a development all about lifestyle."

The community within a community is one-of-a-kind, says Lisa Feist, vice-president of sales and marketing, multi-family for Jayman.

"Jay and Al had always had aspirations for a community that offered multi-generational, inter-connected living offering a diverse way to have a sense of ownership."

Homes range in price from as low as $1,190 a month for rental units to up to $1.6 million for full ownership of a bungalow suite in Reflection.

While Al passed away a number of years ago, Jay has kept that vision alive — and "Westman Village has a number of 'onlys' for Calgary," Feist says.

Here's a sample:

* It's the only development that offers six ways to attain ownership.

• It's the only multi-family development currently available at lakeside.

• It's the only intergenerational community with integrated multi-use amenities and buildings.

• It's the only development to not only have three buildings connected by a +15 but also by an underground passageway.

• It's the only multi-family development where the builder/developer will have a long-term presence in the community. "We're not just a turnkey operation where once we're done development, we're gone," says Wallace Chow, vice-president of development for Jayman. "We will be part of the condo board. We have longevity and a commitment to the community."

• It's the only development that has planted 17,168 trees and shrubs already — and counting. They're working with a nursery to pre-grow trees so they can plant some that are much bigger than would often be found in new developments.

• It's the only village in Calgary offering a-la-carte services (for a small, pre-paid fee) to everyone in the community, whatever type of housing they choose. This includes meals, medical and more.

• It's the only 'green' community that already has solar heating panels on its main amenity buildings with roughins for residents in the residents' buildings for future.

• It's the only complex that includes a generous 42,000 square feet of retail space, including underground parking.

There's much more, including a look at the extensive amenity centre that has two swimming pools, including a two-storey water slide, more than 250 pieces of fitness equipment, and 17 other amenities.

There are two ways to find out more:

• The Discovery Centre at 3132 118 Ave. S.E. (in the Jayman BUILT Centre)

• And a Presentation Centre just south of the beach at Lake Mahogany on Mahogany Blvd. S.E.

Both are open from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

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